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Vol 1 Issue 46

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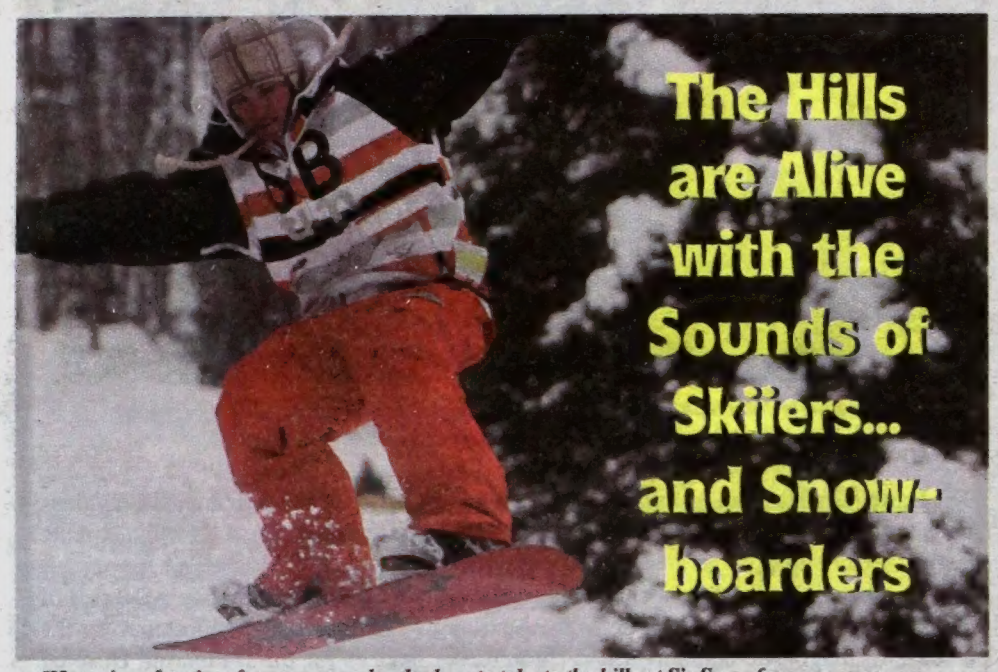

Winter is a fun time for many people who love to take to the hills at Sir Sams for some snow-boarding and skiing fun. More pics and story on pg. 28...

Haliburton County is Heeding Signs of a Fragile Economy

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

"The world has changed over the last few weeks."

(Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey)

County Council are showing some very strong indicators that they will be taking a cautious approach during their 2009 budget deliberations given the country's fragile economy. Committees of County Council looked at preliminary budgets for emergency services, economic development and roads for the first time and there were certainly no pie in the sky items that often emerge during the earliest days of budget discussions and wish lists.

Comments heard from members showed that, given present economic times, prudence will prevail and budgets dissected carefully with cost savings in mind. While no firm decisions are being made yet, each department is seeking direction from Council and they are getting a clear message to proceed with caution.

Dysart's Reeve Murray Fearrey was the first to state unequivocally that he intends to consider budget submissions very carefully. During the last Economic Development & Tourism Committee meeting he said, "I intend to ask a lot of questions this year and not only about Economic Development."

That is not to say that things will come to a standstill or that modest purchases aren't being recommended to move forward. The Economic Development draft budget included a budget increase to permit the development of a new web design for the County's tourism site as well as $13,500 to purchase two digital screens designed for use at trade shows and various locations to promote the county in an interactive way. Small increases were also recommended to the advertising budget to reflect current rates, to cover the cost of increased fees at trade shows and to conduct studies aimed at business retention and expansion (BR&E) in the County.

During discussions at the last EMS Committee meeting an

County budget Cont'd... pg. 2...

Lake Associations Band Together Against Airport Expansion

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

The Algonquin Highlands Council may have submitted their request to Building Canada for airport expansion funding, but those in opposition to the project are still hard at work in their desire to quash it. Six of the County's lake associations have banded together to make their own submission to the Joint Secretariat expressing grave concerns about the project.

While there is no doubt that the Maple, Beech & Cameron Lakes Association (MBC) has taken the lead in investigating the proposed project and standing firm against it, over the past few months many of the other lake association members have shared MBC's concerns about this very expensive undertaking. Now, the Oxtongue Lake Ratepayers Association, Kushog Lake Property Owners Association, Livingstone Lake Association, Halls & Hawk Lakes Property Owners Association and the Otter Lake Ratepayers Association have officially leant their support to MBC by writing to Building Canada directly, before the Algonquin Highland's submission can be processed.

The arguments that the associations make are quite telling. They maintain that the airport expansion is not the number one priority of the Municipality, given the split vote on the motion by Council to move forward with the project. They reference two separate opinion polls (one by Trent University and the other by the Councillor Carol Moffatt) that indicate an

Airport cont'd... pg. 8...

Inside This Issue

Singing For Santa in Wilberforce... pg. 23

Strange Animals Invade Haliburton... pg. 34

Slippin' Their Way Through Winter... pg. 28

Singing to light up the night.... These people enjoyed some carolling during Minden's Tree Lighting Ceremony held recently. See more pictures on pg. 20. Photo by Lyn Winans

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Cathy Bain * 457-2414 ext 23

Wishing Everyone A Safe & Happy Winter

Lindsay Elder ** 286-1234

MOUNTAIN LAKE- $599,900

4,000 sq. ft. , 4 bdrs, 3 1/2 baths, 2 beamed lvg rooms, 2 offices/studios (1 has a washroom, storage & separate entrance). Dining room, kitchen, breakfast room, exercise/plant room, wine making room. Oil heating w/an air-tight wood stove for extra winter comfort. A/C cools in summer. Double storey barn has a huge workshop - lots of storage.

Patti & Hal Johnson ** 236-1234 ex 238

RURAL RESIDENTIAL - $169,900

Renovated 2+ bedroom home located on over 5 acres with total privacy. Above ground pool w/ wrap around decking. Recent renos - maple kitchen, ceramic tile, bathroom fixtures, main floor laundry, hardwood maple flooring, decking, airtight pellet stove and light fixtures. Full walkout basement with extra bedroom, storage and workshop.

Debbie Cumber* 457-2414 ext 24

OLD CAMERON RD. - $30,000

1.41 ACRE back lot on private road off Highway 35 and Sandy Bay Road - nicely treed building lot - old dug well on property - walking distance to Gull Lake.

Susan Johnson * 286-1234

COUNTRY HOME - $299,000

Custom built 4 bdrm. home on level, tastefully landscaped private country lot. Open concept design with cathedral ceilings and dormers all done in pine and a modern kitchen. Hardwood maple floors, main floor laundry and a fully finished basement. Circular drive leads you to a two and a half car insulated garage and a large swimming pool.

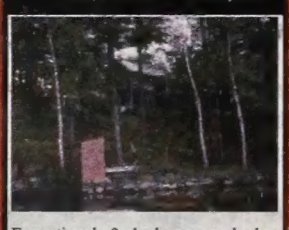
Chris & Michelle Smolarz * 457-2414

GULL RIVER - $219,900

Nice solid brick home on prestigious Gull River / Shadow lake. Superb convenient location, nice setting with view and ambiance of the waterfalls. Mature treed level lot, paved municipal access, 1 1/2 hour drive from GTA. Features updated eat-in kitchen, fireplace, sunroom, docking, main floor laundry plus loads more.

David Lee * 286-1234
www.haliburtonhighlands-reelestate.ca

PEACH LAKE - $459,900



Exceptional 3 bedroom and den cottage/home with 307 feet frontage on a pristine lake. Very private with western exposure. Bunkie and metal storage shed. Propane and wood fireplaces with main floor laundry. Natural lot with no grass to cut. Viceroy style with low E windows.

Tom Gardner* 286-1234

SEDGWICK ROAD - $114,900

Great starter or retirement home, 2+ bedrooms, value-priced, very private lot with great view. Large sun room, oversized detached 2 car garage, home being sold 'as is'. Easy access to Minden/Haliburton,on township road.

Al Mayo * 286-1234

MISTIVALE ROAD - $249,000

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Ed Gibbons * 286-1234

CRYSTAL LAKE - $149,000

Renovate three bedroom cottage with deeded access to Crystal Lake. Features; drilled well, heated line, fully winterized, full basement, small barn for storage, dock space available. Great beach. Great for ATV or snowmobile. Large 2 acre lot.

Peter Franzen* 286-1234

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Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary Christmas Luncheon

Grand Knight John Skinner presents a cheque for $500 to Hospital Auxiliary Treasurer Kadi Bone, left, Auxiliary President Judy Skinner looks on.

The Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary gathered together last week for their annual Christmas Luncheon, where they contributed gifts for children and teenagers. The 4 Cs will distribute the gifts at Christmas.

The luncheon also featured a cheque presentation from the Saint Anthony's Council of the Knights of Columbus, which helps the Auxiliary's "Million Dollar Milestone" for the purchase of diagnostic equipment and chronic care devices for the Haliburton Hospital and Highland Woods Health Services.■

County Budget Cont'd...

... from pg. 1

option to purchase an additional ambulance was reluctantly turned down. At the same time, plans to move ahead with replacement of existing vehicles were given the nod. The Roads and Economic Development & Tourism Committees have both looked at preliminary budget figures and have asked their department heads to prioritize projects and purchases for close scrutiny.

At the municipal level, the Councils have almost unanimously indicated that they have no desire to be presented with anything more than the basic operations & maintenance costs, projects that are already on the books and those wage and benefit commitments already in place.

Despite best efforts however, County Treasurer Laura Janke has said that it is the wage and benefit packages that make it almost impossible to have zero increases and towing the line will be very difficult given ever increasing costs of doing business.

In a recent discussion, Fearrey said, "These are difficult times. I don't want to be too negative, and I realize that the County is not likely to be affected as early as other areas, but when money gets tight it's prudent for any level of government to keep costs and taxes as low as possible. It allows people to keep a bit of money in their pockets to spend on their priorities."

At their meeting on November 26th, County Council discussed their approach to requests for funding from external groups and organizations. Janke suggested that Council consider a policy that would set criteria for how and who to fund. Fearrey cautioned, "The world has changed over the last few weeks." He told the rest of Council that he didn't see a lot of flexibility in funding requests from outside groups and suggested sticking to commitments already in place, that being the Trails and Tours initiatives and the four year commitment to the Fish Hatchery.

Minden Hills Deputy Reeve Cheryl Murdoch agreed with financial restraints, but voiced concern that by being too limiting, Council may lose out on Economic Development opportunities in the County. Council agreed that their decision would not preclude their Director of Economic Development & Tourism from bringing ongoing opportunities to their attention throughout the year. They then passed a resolution that supported Fearrey's recommendation to limit external funding to the two groups.

Fearrey later said, "This is a time when our managers need to be real managers by showing restraint and establishing their priorities carefully. Services need to be laid out for our taxpayers but this isn't the time to be coming up with a wish list."

According to Fearrey, there are some expenditures that the County are committed to that must be incorporated into the budget. However, he also said that when it comes to discretionary spending, the County must be careful.

"There are several specific things that must be considered. We're moving forward with our official plan review that presently isn't budgeted for and we have a new library coming on line that will add significant additional costs. In addition to that we also know that the cost of social housing will be higher. Fortunately, we did get some additional money from the province that will soften the blow a bit."

"It may be difficult for all of us, but my attitude is that we'll have to do the best we can to keep increase as low as possible. It's like buying a new car. You wait until you can afford it."

Fearrey also spoke about the County having the most unemployment in Ontario and lowest average income. He said, "It gets down to what is reasonable and fair to serve the needs of our people. We'll set our budgets accordingly."■

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FRIDAY
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SATURDAY
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▲ -1° ▼ -7°

SUNDAY
Cloudy, breezy and mild
▲ 5° ▼ -4°

MONDAY
Colder with a chance of rain and snow
▲ 1° ▼ -4°

TUESDAY
Becoming partly cloudy and colder
▲ -3° ▼ -11°

WEDNESDAY
Morning clouds, then some afternoon sun
▲ -4° ▼ -13°

Fill A Cruiser With Food

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment will be having their annual "Fill a Cruiser with Food "campaign next week.

On Wednesday December 17, 2008, officers will be at the Wilberforce Foodland from 10:00am to 1:00pm trying to fill a cruiser with food. All donated food will be given to the Word of Life outreach centre in Wilberforce.

On Thursday December 18, 2008, officers will be Todd's Independent from 10:00am until noon. The officers will then proceed over to the Haliburton Foodland where they will accept donations until 2:00pm. All the donations will then be turned over to the 4 C's.

On Friday December 19, 2008 officers will be at the Minden Valu-Mart from 10:00am until noon. The officers will then proceed over to the Minden IGA where they will accept donations until 2:00pm. All the donations will then be turned over to Minden Food Bank.

Your Unofficial Lotto Numbers

LOTTO 649

Dec 6, 2008
04 08 29 37 40 48
Bonus Number *45*
Encore 9020657

LOTTO SUPER 7

Dec 5, 2008
08 09 14 16 18 29 42
Bonus Number *35*
Encore 3152680

Next Jackpot is $2,500,000

These are all unofficial numbers. To confirm a win please visit www.olg.ca or visit a local authorized OLG dealer.

Ray Selbie Honoured

Top, from left: Campaign Co-Chair Don Popple, Board Chairman Peter Oyler, Executive Director Dale Walker, Board members David Zilstra and Jim Mitchell. Seated on the bench: Marilyn and Raymond Selbie.

The bench is dedicated to Ray Selbie in honour of his 12 years as a hard-working Hospital Board volunteer. Ray served as an original Board member, and also served as a Vice Chair of the board. He was instrumental in the Special Gift Programs and also provided valuable legal expertise. The bench is for all patients, residents, family and visitors to enjoy. It will be placed outside in spring and summer and remain in the lobby for the fall and winter.

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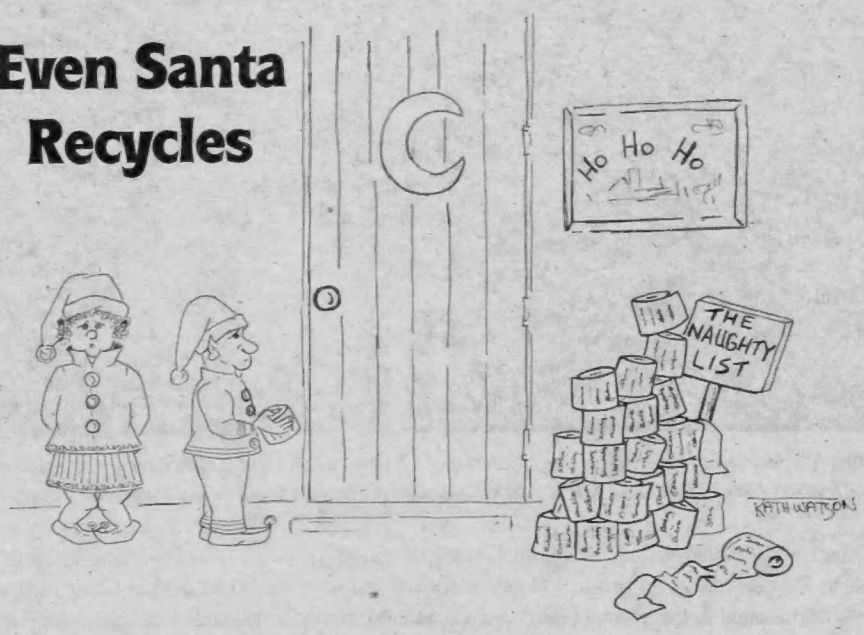

Letter of the Week

Dear Editor:

"I know this land well and I can not see where they can build another level trail around this spot."

Hello: yet another council is struck with the "Brain-Numbing Disease" that seems to be going around! Now it's the county's turn. Of all things -- selling off a portion of the C.N.R. Railway Line Corridor between Goulds Crossing Road south to the other side of what used to be Casey's Gravel Pit. Now that "a Big City Business" has bought this operation out, the county is ready to cave in & sell them this road allowance. Was this also done behind "Closed Doors?" It seems to be the in-thing this year for our local elected politicians to do, then after all is done, run a Public Notice in the local papers about this undertaking & hold a mock-up meeting for public input on something that is already a done deal.

As most know this is the only recreation link between Kinmount & beyond to the Village of Haliburton and area. During the winter it is used by snowmobiles, skiing & other winter recreation sports, while during the warmer months it's used by almost every other recreational sport, including horse back riding & driving (and I have done both on this trail.) Unlike the I.B.&O Rail Trail in Highlands East it is very well kept up and is safe for horses.

My Question to the county is: Where will they loop the new trail around this part for both sides of it are very steep & or swampy?

I know this land well and I can not see where they can build another level trail around this spot. The east side is owned partly by Miss Margaret Dobzrensky and the new company that also owns the west side along with the Casey family & associates. On top of the hill is the Gelert Road (Co. Rd. 1).

Now is the time to act by all that use this corridor, as well as the retailers in Haliburton to write, email, phone and attend the council meeting in Minden on the 17th of December at 9:00am to put a stop to this crazy endeavour.

To contact the county Phone: (705) 286-1333 Fax: (705) 286-4829 or Email: aballe@county.haliburton.on.ca

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Don Outram
Tory Hill, Ontario.■

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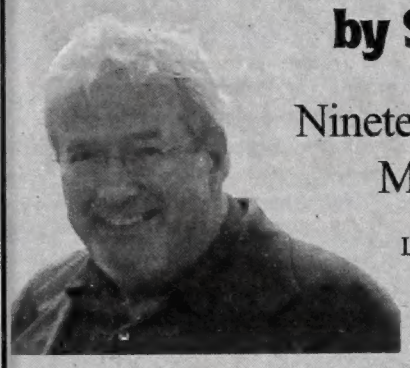
EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

by Stephen Patrick



Nineteen Years On, the Montreal Massacre Still Resonates

Last Friday the Minden Branch of the YWCA hosted the annual National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women to commemorate the Montreal Massacre of December, 1989 (see story on pg 6).

And just last month, in Ottawa, the YWCA Canada launched its Rose Campaign, a "national advocacy campaign to end violence against women and girls". YWCA Canada CEO Paulette Senior commented that "Ending violence against women requires a major shift in our thinking as a society. Violence must be treated as unacceptable behaviour whenever and wherever it occurs. Every woman needs a safe place to live, a door she can lock to shut out violence, whether she is fleeing an assaultive partner or struggling to get off the street."

When 25 year old Marc Lepine shot 28 people at the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, killing 14 of them, all women, it unleashed a national debate on a number of levels, a debate marked by finger pointing and bitter accusations that women, and in particular, feminists, were using the event to advance their cause. Lepine told some of the women he was about to kill in cold blood that "I am fighting feminism. You're women, you're going to be engineers, you're all a bunch of feminists, I hate feminists."

Lepine used a semi-automatic rifle he'd bought legally a few weeks before in Montreal. As he stalked his prey throughout the Ecole Polytechnique, he ranted about how feminists had destroyed his life.

The deaths of the 14 women caused a national uproar, with many groups demanding some measure of gun control, and others decrying the ongoing violence against women. But many others criticized the outpouring of anger and grief from many women's groups and the accompanying demands for political action, saying the killings had nothing to do with feminism, or with a society that still was suspicious of a 'feminist, left wing agenda'. Lepine was simply one madman, his bloody rampage an isolated act that had no message for society at large. Barbara Frum, the first female host of the CBC's National, even went so far as to accuse those who thought the murders were directed at feminists of "diminishing" their deaths.

But the leaders of many women's groups refused to back down, and despite some astonishingly angry criticism, including being accused of using Ku Klux Klan techniques, the National Day Remembrances spread across the country. The massacre also led to the successful passage of Bill 68, the Firearms Act passed in 1995. And there were other controversies arising from the event. Many commentators couldn't believe that none of the young men and professors who were at the Ecole that day tried to take down Lepine. In one room the gunman separated out nine women from some 50 men, ordering the men to leave. They did, quietly. The nine women were all shot, six fatally.

In Haliburton County the YWCA reports that violence against women has not diminished significantly over the last 20 years. Getting government money for shelters is tough: gaining public acceptance of the problem is still a struggle. But that struggle will continue, in no small part due to the perseverance and tenacity of women's groups, and institutions like the YWCA. And due to the calm and moving observance of past horrors, like the National Day of Remembrance.

All Hail Iggy

At press time it seemed certain that Michael Ignatieff would become the federal Liberal's next leader. What also seems clear is that any notion of a formal Coalition lasting into the New Year will die a slow death. Ignatieff will likely bide his time, waiting for his moment, solidifying the Liberals' precarious financial situation, confident that eventually he'll best Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the polls.

So we have stability, once again, of a sort, although you could argue that's not necessarily a good thing. The political culture of this Parliament has certainly been irrevocably changed – but into what we won't likely know until the end of January. When, for sure, more fur will fly. ■

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Parents of Cardiff Students Speak Up

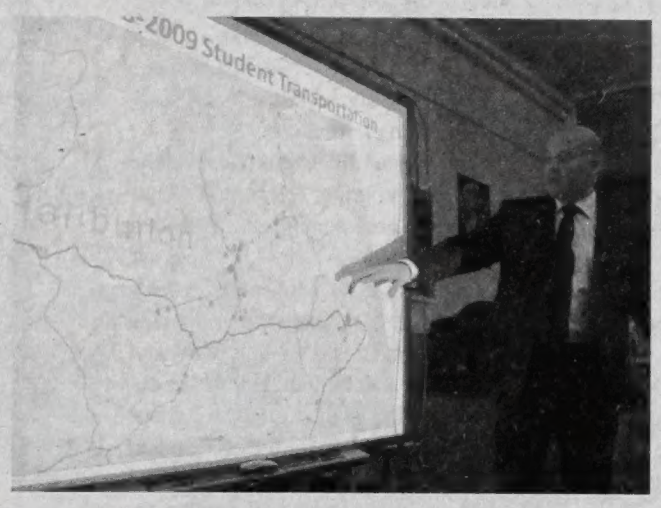
First Public PARC Meeting Introduces Process to Community Members

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

Families of students who attend the Cardiff Elementary School had their voices heard loud and clear at the first Public Accommodation Review Committee's (PARC) public input session on Wednesday, Dec. 3. Their message was: "keep our school open."

About 60 people attended the meeting that was held in the Cardiff Elementary School's portable gym to hear about the program and accommodation review process that could ultimately influence the future fates of both their school and the Wilberforce Elementary School.

Due to declining enrollment rates in both schools, the Trillium Lakelands District School Board's board of trustees decided on launching the program and accommodation review back in September. It's a process that has become quite common across the Province, as nearly half of the 72 public school boards in Ontario are conducting such reviews.



In the TLDSB board, student enrollment has dropped significantly from 13,029 students in 2003 to 10,800 this year. Though enrollment at the Wilberforce Elementary School and the Cardiff Elementary School is about equal and projected to be stable at about 55 for the next two years, it is also projected to fall to about 49 in Wilberforce in 2011.

The length of this review is forecasted to take anywhere between eight months and two years to complete. When it's all said and done, the PARC will make a final recommendation to the board of trustees on what they feel is best for the schools students based on the information gathered. The final decision rests on the board of trustees.

At this first public input session (which is one of at least four to be conducted), individuals and groups were invited to make presentations that expressed their opinions of the school and what they'd like to see happen. Written submissions were also accepted.

Before starting, the board of trustees let everyone in the room know that they were there to listen and steer clear from debates and possible scenarios.

"We want to make sure that everyone's voices will be heard," said Trustee Chairperson Rick Johnson.

Kathryn Verduyn, Director of Education, also addressed the audience on the process that she characterized as "intense."

"This is the foundational force that is driving this process," said Verduyn.

Verduyn also stated that keeping the status quo as is and opening a new school aren't options that anyone will be looking at.

"The Ministry of Education does not fund new schools where existing buildings are in good repair," she said.

As the presentations began, Steve Kauffeldt, President of the Cardiff Community Association, was the first of two scheduled speakers to demonstrate his passion for the school he feels plays a vital role to people of the area.

"We have a fully-functioning daycare here, a library in the school, wonderful teachers and staff and a large spacious playground with room for expansion," said Kauffeldt. "In short, this is a great building in a good location."

Kauffeldt added that though Cardiff is known as a haven for low cost, affordable housing for families with children, it's the school that makes the community desirable.

With a lack of economic development in Cardiff, Kauffeldt says that the closure of the school would further oppress the area.

"The Cardiff Community Association is alarmed at the prospect of the Cardiff Elementary School closing," he said. "The closure of the school would mean a final blow to the people and children of this community. Cardiff has never been the success it could've been or yet may someday be, but closing the school in this community would be more than devastating, it would be nothing short of catastrophic."

Susanne Hedley, a parent from Cardiff, also came to the front of the room to share her experiences from the school and recount pleasant past experiences she's had with staff members.

"I know that people in this community, especially many of which are retired, would really miss the children and the going's on at this school," said Hedley.

In the event of a school closure, Hedley urges that Cardiff residents think about the positive outcomes that could occur.

"The one good thing is that we would meet more wonderful people and our children would meet more wonderful children. We would have more facilities, more children and therefore, more programs," she said.

Parents at the meeting also had the opportunity to fire-off questions to PARC members, most of which addressed transportation issues, combined grades, daycare and stability for families.

A big concern of several parents was the length of bus rides that their children might face if they were sent to another school.

Bob Kaye, TLDSB Superintendent of Business, told them that no child across the board would face a trip longer than 60 minutes: "We would use two busses to break up a run if the run is longer than 60 minutes."

Before the public input session, the PARC held their third organizational meeting to date. In that meeting, the committee reviewed and made changes to a draft copy of the proposed "valuation framework" This is a document that is set-up to consider the value of the school to the student, the school board, the community and the local economy.

The PARC also looked at slides that outlined declining enrollment trends in the TLDSB.

The next public input session will be held at the Wilberforce Elementary School on February 11 at 6 p.m. For more information visit www.tldsb.on.ca. ■

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More Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

"Is it any wonder that our politics … occasionally descends into the worst of juvenile behaviour?"

Politics should not be like a hockey game, a win /lose event, a winner take-all event. First, the stakes are too high; they tempt participants to take unfair advantage. The power and prestige of ruling the country as the Prime Minister or member of the ruling party are considerable. Secondly there is too much probability of doing serious harm, alienating large groups like Quebecers or Albertans for long periods, for example.

We understand in hockey that many efforts are taken to gain advantage. This is controlled by a detailed set of rules administered by referees and instant replays. And yet still violent disagreements break out. Our political system does not have the same careful control.

Consider these ambiguities. We elect a prime minister, maybe, to some extent, perhaps. We elect a government, well not directly. The government enjoys the support of a majority of the voters, rarely. Each M.P. represents the people of a particular riding, well not all of them, some proportion to some extent. The M.P. represents the interests of his electors, or the leader of his party or the program of his party.

We could never play hockey games with winning and losing a season or the Stanley Cup at stake with these ambiguities. Is it any wonder that our politics with much more at stake occasionally descends into the worst of juvenile behaviour?

We don't want to curb ambition, we can tighten the rules but we should change the nature of the game to encourage civility, compromise and even coalition between the competing parties.

Jim Milne
West Guilford. ■

On behalf of the family, please join us for afternoon tea to celebrate
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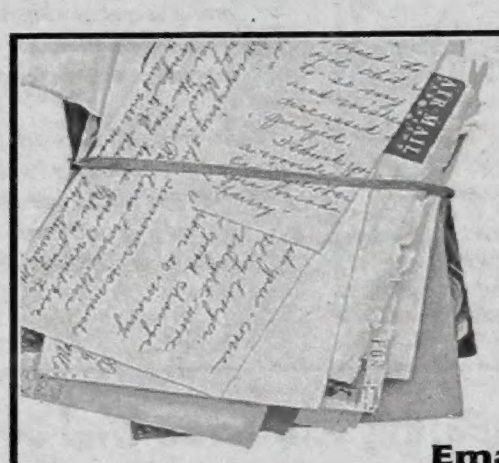
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National Day of Remembrance Commemorates 1989 Montreal Massacre

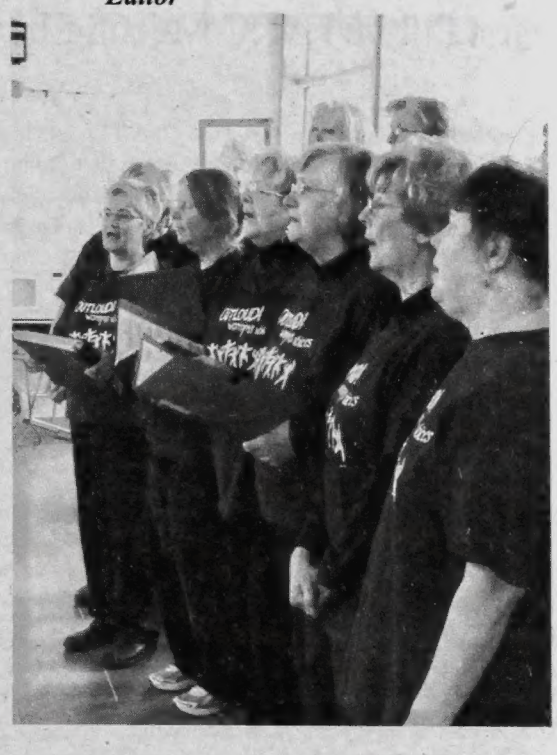
Stephen Patrick
Editor

Shooting of 14 at the Ecole Polytechnic Still Resonates Today

About 40 women and men gathered at Fleming College's Great Hall in Haliburton last Friday to commemorate the shooting of 12 Mechanical Engineering students, one Nursing student, and one female employee at University of Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique on December 6th, 1989. This "National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women" has been an annual fixture during the first week of December each year since Marc Lepine calmly strode through the hallways of the Ecole Polytechnique mercilessly shooting 14 women because, as he said at the time, "I'm fighting feminism."

The YWCA of Peterborough, Victoria, and Haliburton hosted the event and Darlene Smith-Harrison of the YWCA's Women's Centre opened the program. Haliburton's Out-Loud Womyn's Voices sang three inspiring songs during the ceremonies, ending with a very moving 'Circle Chant'.

Marilynne Lesperance, a lifelong worker in the Canadian Labour Movement, gave a powerful and emotional speech that deeply affected the crowd. Ms. Lesperance retired as a National Representative for the Canadian Auto Worker Union in 2005 and now lives in Minden, where she volunteers and spends time with her four grandchildren. During her career she was in the forefront of the fight to ensure women's rights in the Canadian Labour Movement: in 1985 she became the first Woman Staff representative with the Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad and General Workers – a union which involved mostly railroad personnel – and which had no female members.

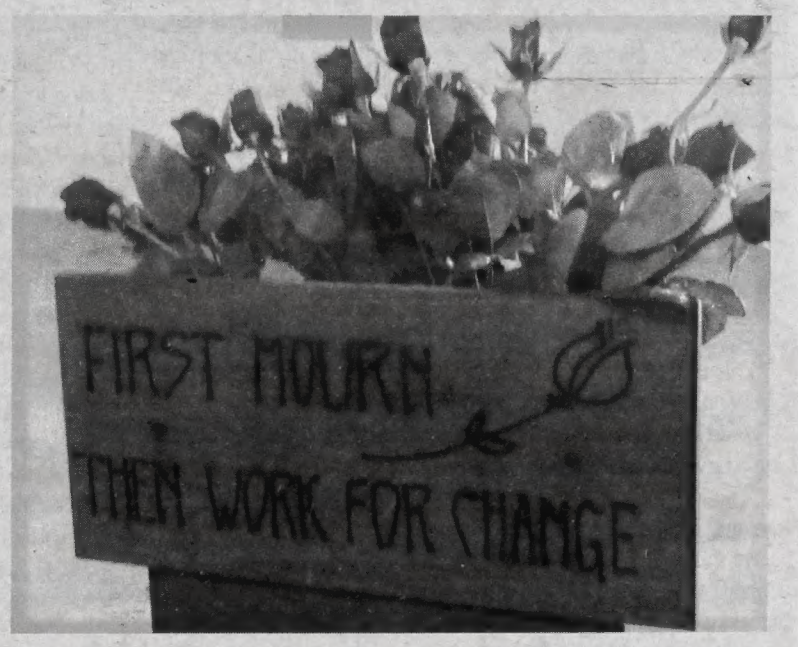


Ms. Lesperance told a story of a working mother of three in Windsor in the 1950s who was murdered by a co-worker in a rage about food stamps, and of how the ripple effect of that act of violence went on for years. The woman's husband became an alcoholic and her three children, aged nine, six, and four, were left to cope with the tragedy as best their could. Ms. Lesperance's point was that violence against women is never an isolated act, but just one point in a continuum of violence and pain. To end her speech, she admitted that she was in fact that little nine-year-old who, back in 1954, had prayed all night that her mother might live – only to be told in the morning that she had died of her wounds. Small wonder that Marylinne Lesperance ended up devoting her life to her family, and to the right of women to lead a life free from violence and discrimination.

After the traditional laying of 14 roses to commemorate the deaths in Montreal 19 years ago, a tribute to women who have been murdered this year in Ontario began. Daisy Downs of the Minden YWCA's office read out the names and horrific details of the deaths of 16 Ontario women in 2008 alone: in all instances their partners, or ex-partners have either been charged, or committed suicide shortly afterwards. Members of the YWCA are quick to point out that despite all the gains made in equal rights for women, in the workplace and elsewhere, the violence continues. The National Day of Remembrance lists nine actions that individuals and communities can take to "help foster a healthy society."

Speak up about violence in your community. Encourage people who commit violence to get help. Teach girls to protect and empower themselves. Raise children who can resolve conflict without violence. Make sure your home, workplace and community are safe for women and girls. Promote women's economic and political equality. Support organizations that work to end violence against women. Donate your time and support the cause. Remember. ■

Keynote speaker Marylinne Lesperance gave a deeply moving address to the gathering, highlighting her horrific childhood experience with violence against women.



At right - flowers are placed in memory of the 14 women who died in Montreal in 1989 and the 16 women who have died so far this year in Ontario alledgedly as a result of domestic disputes.

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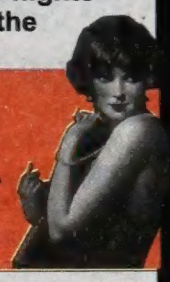

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Cottage Associations Say NO To Airport Expansion

... from pg. 1

overwhelming majority of taxpayers in Algonquin Highlands do not support the airport expansion and identify other projects as having greater priority and economic benefit. Building Canada criteria require that project submissions are a municipality's top priority.

The lake association executives suggest to Building Canada's Joint Secretariat that the business case being presented by Algonquin Highlands is not based on fact. This is evidenced in part by the Municipality's submission placing a great deal of emphasis on the runway being needed to provide essential services (emergency medical services, law enforcement and fixed wing fire suppression services) all of which have been disproved more than once during the course of debate over the project.

Paul MacInnes, President of MBC, said, "I can't believe they're still talking about fixed wing medivac. One wonders just how many times this has to be disproven."

The municipality's business plan emphasizes the need for a crosswind runway for safety reasons. In response to this, the associations point out that Algonquin Highlands' own consulting engineers have suggested that the existing runway is well positioned for prevailing wind conditions and a new runway, while longer, will not necessarily be safer.

The associations submitted that the consulting engineers also made it clear to the Council that the new runway will not meet Transport Canada standards for a certified runway. Without this the airport won't be able to attract scheduled flights and the types of planes and organizations that would be able to use the runway will always be limited.

The associations say that future traffic forecasts have no sound justification and are even wildly optimistic as are the economic benefits which Algonquin Highlands seems to anticipate. They point out that while the airport is named and positioned as a County Airport, not one of the other three municipal councils have officially expressed support for the proposed expansion. Despite a lack of formal support from the County, arguments made by Algonquin Highlands in support of the project rely heavily on County demographics.

The associations point out that even though the Algonquin Highlands Council did hold a public meeting regarding the project, questions from the audience were limited to those related to the technical aspects of the proposed runway and any efforts to question the Reeve, Councillors or CAO about the economic aspects of the plan were stifled. This too goes against the grain of Building Canada requirements that projects have the support of the community.

According to MacInnes, the municipality's business plan in support of the project, which was pulled together in just a few weeks, needs a lot more research and sober second thought.

Even a cursory look at the application shows some serious flaws and projections that have absolutely no grounding in fact. As an example, the business plan states that the airport generated a total gross revenue of $4.1 million dollars to Ontario's economy, but for some reason fails to say just how that was achieved.

The municipality's executive summary suggests that without a viable general purpose airport, the region will not be able to compete with other communities to attract light clean sustainable industry. It also states that the quality of life factors for the aging demographics of the area are at a disadvantage without the airport. In addition, it suggests that the new runway will be crucial in providing increased access, security and staging services for the G-8 Economic Summit planned for 2010.

The summary makes a number of references to improved quality of life as a result of the airport expansion, and quotes various transportation studies conducted in the states. One would have to ask, with so many residents of Algonquin Highlands speaking out against the project, how their quality of life could possibly be improved by it.

Without any detailed justification, the summary also states that economic development in the area is projected to reach up to 163 person years of annual employment that will generate as much as $14.8 million dollars annually to the provincial economy.

The business plan suggests that with the development of the airport and resulting increased infrastructure and commercial activity, the municipality will be able to reduce the tax burden on the local community.

In fact, much of the rationale for the project in the application fails to be validated actually flies in the face of arguments made time and time again to Council by detractors to the project.

The document even manages to cloud the identity of the airport as it is referred to as the Haliburton/Stanhope Municipal Airport, the Stanhope Municipal Airport, the Haliburton Highlands/Stanhope Municipal Airport and the Haliburton/Algonquin Highlands Municipal Airport. This, combined with numerous and even glaring errors, supports the associations' argument that the business plan included in their submission was inadequate. It appears to have been very hastily prepared, even after many residents urged Council to take the time and even budget sufficient funds to have a detailed business plan completed by professionals before they proceeded further with the project.

The bottom line for the associations, who are concerned for the economic prosperity of the township, is the question whether the construction of a new runway is the best use of federal, provincial and municipal tax dollars.

MacInnes says that he has called the Joint Secretariat for Building Canada to formally request a meeting. It is his intention to go through the Algonquin Highlands submission and highlight both the inadequacies and inaccuracies in the proposal.

According to MacInnes, in order to be successful with a Building Canada application, there must be complete accord between the provincial & federal government representatives that applications are for priority projects before they proceed to higher levels for approval.

In addition to other concerns raised, appointments to the Building Canada Secretariat are political in nature which, according to MacInnes is one of the reasons it took so long to be formed. One would have to question whether the appointments will remain valid if the Conservative government falls early in the New Year and how long it could take before project reviews and approvals take place.

It will be very interesting to see what Building Canada's response to this application is. According to MacInnes, in their first round of applications the Secretariat has already received more applications than they can afford to fund which would place each one under very careful review. Stand by to learn whether the application for a new runway can stand the scrutiny.■

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Fleeing From Conservation Officer Costs Poacher $1,000

A Bancroft-area resident received a $1,000 fine and a one-year hunting suspension after pleading guilty to obstructing a conservation officer.

Murray Marois, 43, also received a suspended sentence for hunting black bear without a licence. His firearms were seized for hunting game without licences.

On November 5, 2007, a Ministry of Natural Resources conservation officer from the Bancroft District office was on a routine patrol checking deer hunters when he saw Marois. The officer tried to stop Marois for a licence and firearm inspection, but he fled on foot. After a brief chase, he was arrested. The officer found that Marois had two guns, which were seized.

Justice of the Peace C. McKechnie heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice, Bancroft, on December 2, 2008.

To report a natural resource violation, call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free any time or contact your ministry office during regular business hours. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) ■.

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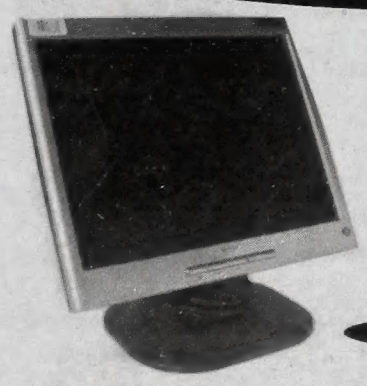

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Vacation Opens Up New Chapter in Local Man's Life

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

Henry Hecking Always Knew That There Was a Piece Missing in the Puzzle

Last winter, Henry Hecking's wife Judy approached her husband with the idea of going on a holiday to Florida. But instead of travelling south of the border, Henry suggested the pair head to Central Europe to his homeland of Germany. Little did they know that the vacation would turn out to be an unforgettable and life-altering experience that would open up a new chapter in their lives.

Henry was born on March, 22, 1945 in the town of Holtzminden, Germany. When he was only three weeks old, his birth mother, an unwed stenographer named Gertrud Lang, relinquished him for adoption near the end of the World War 11. His birth father, Hermann Bode, was not mentioned anywhere on his birth certificate.

For his entire life his adoptive parents, Dr. Stephan Hecking and Nurse Hildegard Hecking, raised Henry. Though he never got the chance to meet his birth parents before they passed away, Hecking knew it was highly likely that he had a least one sibling somewhere out there in the world.

"Because I was adopted and because at one point my birth mother had tried to undo the adoption, I had known that she had become pregnant with another child. So I knew that I had one sibling in Germany. Brother or sister, I wasn't sure," said Henry in an interview with The Voice from his home just outside of Haliburton.

After his adoptive mother passed away in September of 2007, Henry decided to head out on not only a vacation of a lifetime with his wife, but fulfill a mission. Armed with his adoption and custody papers, birth certificate, biological mothers' name and Judy by his side, he made the trip to Holtzminden.

One of the first stops he made in his hometown was at the local town hall. Once inside, he presented the documents he had to the man in charge of the city's records. After Hecking successfully proved his identity, the man revealed some information that was instrumental in the search for answers.

"He told me that my biological mother had passed away in 1983 and my biological father had passed away in 1973. He also told me that I had two sisters," said Hecking.

Due to privacy laws, the man initially wasn't going to give over the sister's names. After spending enough time pleading with the man, he eventually gave in.

"He ended up telling me that one of my sisters still lives in Holtzminden and that she had never moved. He also told us her last name," explained Hecking.

Margot Bode, born on March 20, 1946, would turn out to be the first of two sisters Hecking would go on to meet.

But before combing the area for Bode, Hecking headed back to the hotel with Judy and the facts he had gathered. Since the couple didn't have the sister's home address, they had to figure out how they were going to go about finding her. In a bizarre turn of events, the answer to their burning question was practically at their hotel doorstep.

"We got to know the owner of the hotel quite well," explained Hecking. "I told him the whole story and he said, 'Oh, I know her! She's comes here to eat with her husband.' and then I said, 'Ok, what do you suggest I do? Should I phone or should I go?'"

The hotel owner suggested that Hecking opt to make a personal visit to Margot because she could easily hang up the phone on him.

After a short drive, the couple pulled into the sister's driveway. As Judy puts it, it was nothing short of a "Kodak moment."

"Judy stayed in the car and I went to the door," recalled Hecking. "I knocked on the door and in German I said, 'I'm not a salesman. Please give me five minutes of your time because I think we share the same mother.'"

When Margot proceeded to let Hecking in to her home, she noticed Judy, still waiting outside.

"She asked me if that was my wife and I said yes. She said, 'Well, bring her in.'"

Inside, Margot and her husband Wolfgang, showed Hecking photographs of Hecking's birth parents to him. And after engaging in three hours of conversations with his newfound sister, Hecking was shocked to find out that the birth parents they shared never brought up his name before. To this day, that remains to be an unsolved mystery.

"Both my sisters had no clue about me," said Hecking. "As to why it's that way, nobody knows."

But before Hecking's adoptive mother Hildegard passed away, she shared a possible scenario with Judy that could explain why he was given up.

"On one of her last visits here, Henry's adoptive mother told me that his birthmother's partner was a soldier," explained Judy. "He wanted to come home on leave to get married but they weren't allowing any war-time marriages. He went away, came back again and purposely got her pregnant so they could get married, but they still weren't allowed to get married."

But after their trip last year, Hecking's sisters provided their own take on the story.

"Their mother told them that when dad came home after the war, he had suffered an unknown injury that prohibited him from working ever again," recounted Judy. "What his sisters are thinking is that maybe he was injured, she didn't hear from him so she assumed him dead and gave Henry up. But then he ends up coming back and they get married three weeks later."

Top: Both sisters, Margot and Barbara, join their long-lost brother Henry Hecking.

Middle: Henry and his wife Judy take a breather while on their incredible trip in Germany.

Bottom: Margot and Henry shortly after reunjiting at her home in Holtzminden, Germany.

Hecking admits that his biological parents never held on to any records documenting his birth.

"In my biological parents estate there was no record of me, nothing at all," he said.

During their weeklong stay in Holtzminden, the couple says that Margot and Wolfgang made them feel welcome.

"Everyday they'd pick us up and take us sightseeing," said Judy, while Henry added. "They showed us where my parents used to live."

Judy says that the connection her husband made with his sister was almost instantaneous.

"She grabbed on to Henry every time we would go anywhere," recalled Judy. "At one point she said, 'I always wanted an older brother when I was little. I didn't know that I would have to wait this long to get one.'"

Shortly after their first encounter, Margot made a phone call to Hecking's other sister, Barbara, to deliver the special news to her.

"She only lives an hour away from Margot in Hannover," said Hecking.

Barbara is an elementary school teacher and her husband, Volker, is the Chief Magistrate of Hannover. They're also artists who run their own charitable organization that provides art supplies to terminally ill children.

Prior to retirement, Margot and Wolfgang worked as chemists.

And though his sisters are thousands of miles away from Haliburton, Hecking speaks to them on the phone weekly. Next August, Margot and Wolfgang plan on coming to Haliburton to spend time with the family that they welcomed into "their hearts and homes."

Not only are Henry and Judy thrilled to have found family they never knew about, so are their sons Steve and Paul.

"When I showed Steve the pictures, it freaked him right out," said Judy. "When he saw one of his cousins, he noticed that he looks just like him."

Hecking says he doesn't have any regrets about taking the trip and neither does Judy.

"It was so good for him because there was a part of him that was missing," explained Judy.

"I've always been happy with my life and my adoptive parents," added Henry. "That was the life I always knew." ■

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Dysart Considers Stepped Up Enforcement

"Things have gone awry in the industrial park." (Bill Davis)

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

Some aspects of by-law enforcement are being placed under the microscope in Dysart et al and residents may have some tough pills to swallow next year if proposed changes are adopted. During their first meeting in December the Dysart Council considered three particular areas; outdoor wood burning appliances, portable or temporary buildings and the storage of goods and materials. Then, at their meeting this week, Council reviewed a draft Road Damage Security By-law.

The first topic for consideration was open and contained storage, particularly in industrial and commercial areas. During the year, By-law Department officials were directed to initiate greater enforcement of both the zoning by-law regulations and the property standards regulations relating to storage, but it has quickly become apparent that many business owners find existing regulations a bit too restrictive.

As Deputy Reeve Bill Davis put it, "Things have gone awry in the industrial park." Davis and Councillor Andrea Roberts met with staff to look at the situation and put forward some suggestions for Council's consideration. Davis said that the committee had zeroed in on the number and type of trailers that would be allowed and recognizing that two trailers may not be enough storage for some businesses, they suggested a maximum of three should be more than sufficient.

The existing by-law requires open storage to be concealed from view from abutting streets by a fence, wall or similar structure, and in an industrial zone, by a planting strip. Council are now considering changing this to permit open storage in rear yards where screening isn't possible. Where storage isn't possible in a rear yard, it will still need to be concealed from view as much as possible by a fence, wall or planting strip.

Roberts said, "We're not trying to tie anyone's hands, but we are striving for a neat appearance."

Roberts and Davis had some recommendations to make with respect to contained storage, the first of which is that storage containers must be an accessory to a main building.

The general provisions of the by-law regarding contained storage remain under consideration, but the ability to use streetcars and buses may be restricted and only trailers or freight containers allowed. A clause has also been added that contained outdoor storage shall be kept in a condition of good repair.

Council discussed the definitions of marinas, marine storage and car lots and whether they should differ. Any of the proposed changes remain in draft form and will be subject to further consideration and discussion with affected business owners.

Discussion then moved to regulating outdoor wood burning appliances. A staff review suggests that none of the other municipalities regulate these appliances with the exception of Cardiff where any type of burning within the town site is restricted.

The Municipal Act does allow municipalities to regulate the use and installation of heating and cooking appliances and staff provided a by-law from Trent Hills that regulates the location and installation of outdoor solid fuel burning devices. The municipality also has the option of regulating their installation through their zoning by-law, but Planner Pat Martin suggested that this could be more complex to regulate and be far less user friendly.

Council agreed in general that they could regulate outdoor wood burning appliances through setbacks in each zone, but felt that the distances outlined in the sample by-law provided were excessive. This was deferred for further review and discussion.

Council then turned to a discussion on portable and temporary buildings after the use of canvas and plastic shelters was raised as an issue in November. The structures, considered portable or temporary by the Building Department, are regulated by the Ontario Building Code. According to the Municipality's zoning by-law these buildings are accessory structures and must comply with the zone provisions for setbacks and the allowable number of accessory buildings per lot.

A building permit is required for any portable or temporary building that is greater than ten square metres, but most canvas and plastic shelters don't meet Ontario Building Code requirements.

Reeve Murray Fearrey commented that many areas allow these structures provided they are taken down in the spring.

This sentiment was reinforced by the Chief Building Official Dan Sayers whose position was that they raise structural concerns and can be fire hazards. Sayers said that the structures require permits and must meet the setback requirements of each zone. He also suggested that they will likely have to ease into enforcing requirements on the long term, and that to some extent it was a matter of educating the public.

The handling of temporary canvas and plastic structures will also be an ongoing matter but Council agreed with a bottom line that residents need to be made aware that eventually temporary structures will be required to either meet the standards of the building code or will have to be taken down.

The Road Damage Security by-law, still in draft form, will give the Municipality the ability to recover the cost of repairs to publically maintained roads that results from construction. The by-law requires property owners (or occupants) to take whatever steps necessary to prevent building material, waste or soil from being spilled or tracked onto a highway by vehicles accessing their construction site or from damage being done to the highway by construction equipment either accessing or leaving the site.

When building permits are issued for the erection, alteration, repair or demolition of any building, the owner will be required to pay a deposit that will meet estimat4ed costs of repairing any damage to a public road. The suggested deposit is $1,000 dollars, but will not be required when the building permit is for a deck or structure occupying less than 300 square feet.

The cost identified to repair the road surface on or near the entrance to a construction site is estimated at $300.00 and the replacement of a culvert at a construction site is estimated to be $600.00. Any other costs to repair or clean the road surface will be charged out at the current rates charged for municipal roads equipment and labour.

According to CAO Tammy McKelvey, these costs are the average of what it takes to make this type of repair, factoring in the severity of the situation and travel time. McKelvey said that staff had tried to come up with a deposit that would be reasonable, but would be incorporated into the by-law to reduce arguments.

This particular by-law will require a public meeting before it comes into effect.■

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Grab Your Sticks & Hockey Skates... Gooderham Will Soon Have a Community Ice Rink

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter

For the past 10 months, the LCBO in Gooderham has run a bottle collecting drive to raise funds for the construction of a skating rink near the Gooderham Community Centre. And now that the group has been able to exceed their fund-raising goal of $4,500, work on the rink has finally begun.

"Initially, we started to raise money for playground equipment," explains Matt MicMichael, Manager of the local LCBO. "Our goal at first was to raise $300 and since we collected that so quickly we decided to keep going with it in order to build a rink that could be used for different activities year-round."

The group also managed to raise enough funds to purchase a snow blower for the rink and the Township of Highlands East has provided shovels to those in the community who come to use the ice surface. Volunteer firefighters have agreed to flood the rink and maintain it over the winter months.

Not only have people in the community gotten behind the project by bringing in their empty bottles, many have provided cash donations as well.

Jennifer Horner, employee of the store, gives an example of how one person went out of their way to bring in donations.

"One young fellow in town got a trailer and drove it full of empties to the bottle return place in Irondale for us," said Horner.

Through the grapevine, the Scarborough Young Leafs Hockey Club heard about the group's efforts and donated two complete goalie pad sets.

To accommodate the construction of the rink, the township removed basketball nets that were on poles on the building site. Once winter is over, the nets will be put against a chain link fence instead of on the free-standing poles.

In the spring and summer months, the rink area will be ideal for playing ball hockey and basketball.

John Glass of JPG Decks has offered to build the rink free of labour charges and the township gave permission to put it on the basketball courts. ■

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Please come out, finish your shopping list and support a good cause.

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Virtual Learning Centre

Earn Your Diploma Or A Variety Of High School Credits Online

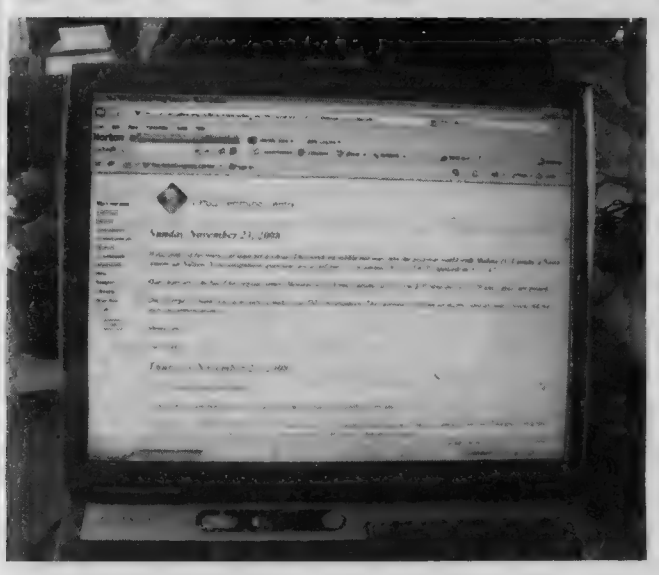
by George Farrell

Guy Scott lives on Crystal Lake Rd, south of Kinmount, in a house that was built in the 1870's. From the same house that has seen five generations of Scotts go out into the world, he teaches a full curriculum of high school courses, from grades 9 through 12. He teaches by actually talking to his students online. They can hear him, he can hear them, and the students and Mr. Scott can also communicate via chat rooms.

Mr Scott, is part of that well known Scott family from Kinmount, and his sister is MPP Laurie Scott. Guy Scott graduated from the University of Ottawa Teachers College in 1980, but didn't start teaching right away. Instead he helped the family run the IGA store in Kinmount. Around 2000 the family sold the store and Mr. Scott decided the time was right to put his education to work.

Teaching, and the need for teachers goes in cycles. Some years ago the public school in Kinmount closed, and public school and high school students are bussed to Coboconk and Minden. "But now the number of students in Kinmount is actually growing," says Guy. "Traditionally high school students were all of an age, but nowadays students can range from teenagers to seniors, and people are looking for alternatives."

"The Virtual Learning Centre (VLC) was originally founded to help people in rural areas who couldn't access high school or couldn't find the right courses to suite their needs. Today we have approximately 10 to 20 percent of our students who are not of high school age." To take the VLC courses, you have to be from Ontario, but you don't have to presently reside in Ontario.



"We have some student from oversees, maybe 5 percent" Guy explains. "Some are missionaries. One girl is backpacking, and she logs on two or three times a week. Some of our students are Ontario citizens living abroad. We have one student who's presently in Bolivia, and another in the Azores. Many students are in different time zones, and one of our groups are home schoolers. Another group are athletes, comprised of hockey players, skaters and national team members. They'll train in the morning or afternoon and then do their schoolwork. We have a very flexible schedule which enables them to do that. Some of our students have jobs, and some are just taking supplementary courses with us that are not available to them at their regular high school. We attract a lot of disparate groups from our fragmented society. All our students who successfully complete their courses get a high school diploma, just like regular students." The VLC is also great for persons with a disability or attention deficit disorders, or for the elderly or for people who, for any number of reasons, cannot leave their residences. You want to access courses in the summer? No problem. The VLC has a summer school too.

"We're part of the Trillium Lakeland District School Board (TLDSB), and the TLDSB is one of only two boards in Ontario with a VLC," exclaims Guy Scott. The VLC is not for everyone. You have to be self motivated for it to work for you. "Some classes lose 20-25 percent of membership. We can't police it, and yet in some classes we have zero drop out. You have to have self discipline. Are you there when your class starts or not? Some adults who haven't been in school for some time do experience some initial difficulties, and of course you must have at least rudimentary computer skills at the very least, because we're an online or virtual school.

"The advantages are many. We can be much more flexible than a regular school in terms of our system and when we teach our classes. Some private schools may start logging in. They don't have to hire extra teachers for individual courses. They just plug into the internet, and we do the work."

The VLC has been up and running for about 10 years now and Guy Scott explains how it works. "To reach us and to start the process you can punch in the words Virtual Learning Centre into your browser, or go to our web site. You can also sign up via our office in Lindsay. Everything you need is online. You can access the books online, ask the teacher questions which will be answered immediately, because you can talk to the teacher directly. Approximately 20 students are needed for a class, but those students can be located anywhere, as long as they've lived in Ontario, and are Canadian citizens.

"The great thing about the internet is that it eliminates textbooks which can quickly become obsolete in our ever-changing world. The web is more instantaneous, and very easily updated. After you sign up, classes start in the 2nd or 3rd week in September. We work on a Monday to Friday system with live classes, and assignments. We can also talk among ourselves via chat rooms. Each teacher has his or her own chat room. We operate the same way as a high school in terms of schedule, semesters, exam times and holidays. The main difference is that we're virtual and we don't have to concern ourselves with things like buildings. Classes vary time-wise. They can be in the morning, afternoons or evenings. That way a student who may have a day job can pick up classes in the evening. Everything is done on a topic-of- the- week basis. We have a complement of about 12 full time teachers. It's great for retired teachers who might only want a light or part time workload, because we need part time teachers to teach some individual courses.

So how is the VLC different from a correspondence course? "Well, you can do our courses at your own leisure from week one to 20 and send it in. With a correspondence course there aren't live classes and you don't talk directly to teachers, because they have no teachers working, except to mark assignments. If you get stuck and have to send an email, the answers with correspondence courses can be very slow in coming, not like with our live teachers and live classes. I get 15 to 20 emails a day which I answer directly, but the great thing is that if a student doesn't understand something he or she can ask the teacher directly in class, one on one, or he can talk to the teacher and other students via the chat room."

"Our classes are mainly audio (teachers and students use ear phones with a mike), but some teachers use the video option where they can be seen as well as heard."

You can access the Virtual Learning Centre by telephone at (705) 328-2925, by fax: (705) 878-8891, email: VLCadmin@tldsb.on.ca or online at www.virtuallearning.ca. The Virtual Learning Centre office is located at 230 Angeline Street South, Lindsay ON, K9V 4R2. ■

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Police Reports

DRIVERS CHARGED

(Haliburton, ON.) – Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment charged two drivers with alcohol related driving offences over the weekend.

On Saturday December 6th, 2008 shortly after 3:00pm officers were called to investigate a report of a vehicle in the ditch on County Rd 21 near the Soyers Lake Rd. An officer responded to the scene and had conversation with the driver who was subsequently arrested and taken to the Haliburton Highlands Detachment.

Charged with Impaired Driving and Driving Over 80mgs is Andrew Turner 43 years of Beamsville. Mr. Turner will be appearing in Minden court on January 7, 2009 in relation to the charges.

On Saturday December 6th 2008 shortly before 11:00pm officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment were conducting a R.I.D.E. check on Highway #118 at Harmony Road.

One of the officers had occasion to stop a vehicle that was westbound on Hwy #118. The officer had conversation with the driver. The driver later failed a roadside screening test and was arrested. He was then taken to the Haliburton Highlands Detachment.

Charged with Impaired Driving and Driving with Over 80 mgs is Michael Cardona 54 years of Dysart et al. Mr. Cardona will be appearing in Minden court on February 4th, 2009 in relation to the charges.

Officers would like to remind the public that O.P.P. Festive R.I.D.E. (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) campaign is ongoing. Members of the public are encouraged to take a taxi or have a designated driver if they are attending functions and may be consuming alcohol. ■

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Got News
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Food For Thought Lectures

Second in Series Focuses on Collapse of Arctic Ice Shelves

The second in a series of lectures presented by U-Links took place at the Minden Hills Council Chambers on the evening of Monday December 1st. The lecturer was Dr. Derek Mueller. He is the Roberta Bondar Fellow in Northern and Polar Studies at Trent University. He has studied Canada's ice shelves since 2001 and has documented their decline using remote sensing, in addition to studying the ecosystems that are affected by their loss.

Dr Mueller had a fresh, breezy non-academic approach which gave the appreciative audience easy and understandable access to the information. Using a computer and projector, which delivered graphs, charts, text, stills and video Dr. Mueller succinctly encapsulated his most recent time in the arctic studying ice shelves. He divided his talk into three sections: The Canadian Rangers, the International Polar Year and the collapse of Arctic ice shelves.

Ice shelves are, as their name implies, shelves of ice built up over thousands of years which float on the ocean. They are anywhere from 10 to 100 meters thick, 10 times as thick as regular sea ice, and they effectively increased the mass of Ellesmere Island, the only place in the Canadian arctic cold enough to have ice shelves. He went on to say that scientists cannot give exact reasons as to why the ice shelves are fragmenting and melting. Using a projected chart he showed that in the 1960's there was a peak in ice shelf decline that he felt could be attributed to natural cycles. However, he pointed out that since the 1980's the peaks were out of all proportion, and the feeling was that the greenhouse effect has a lot to do with that.

In 1906 when scientists first started to monitor the arctic ice shelves there was just one massive ice shelf covering 9000 square km of Ellesmere Island. By 1950 the shelf had fragmented and created a dozen smaller shelves. In 2008 there are only four ice shelves left for a total of 720 square km. What effect the decrease in ice shelves is having on the ecosystems is being carefully monitored and Dr Mueller said that they were aware that some forms of algae and bacteria are being wiped out.

Dr. Mueller gave an overview of the International Polar Year which has taken place every 50 years since the 1880's, and presently includes over 10,000 scientists from over 60 countries. The latest International Polar Year is taking place right now. It started in 2007 and carries on through 2009. It incorporates the physical, biological and social sciences. Canada is involved in many of the projects, and Dr. Mueller is one of three Canadian scientists to go to the Arctic with the express purpose of monitoring ice shelf decline.

The scientists were assisted with their work by the Canadian Rangers who are people of the north comprised of Inuit and other aboriginal peoples, First Nations and non-aboriginals who inhabit the far north. With the aid of home-made wooden sleds which were pulled behind snowmobiles, the Rangers guided the scientists around the wilderness.

Dr Mueller pointed out that some people look upon the decrease in the Arctic ice shelves as a good thing, as it means that some far north communities which have previously been supported by supplies that had to be flown in, could now be supported during the months of September and August, by supply ships, which could navigate due to the increase in open water. The open water is the direct result of ice shelf decline. Some commercial sectors like oil and mining companies will also benefit by increased access to natural resources in the arctic. Judging by the reaction of the audience in the after-lecture question and answer period however, it was apparent that the majority of those in attendance were more concerned with the long- term effects of greenhouse gasses on the environment, than with short term economic fixes based on fossil fuels and minerals.

The next lecture in the series will take place on February 2nd 2009. The guest speaker will be that iconic former NHL referee Scotty Morrison, who will give a talk titled Behind the Whistle.

For more information on the Food For Thought lecture series call U-Links at (705) 286-2411 or email admin.ulinks@aibn.com.■

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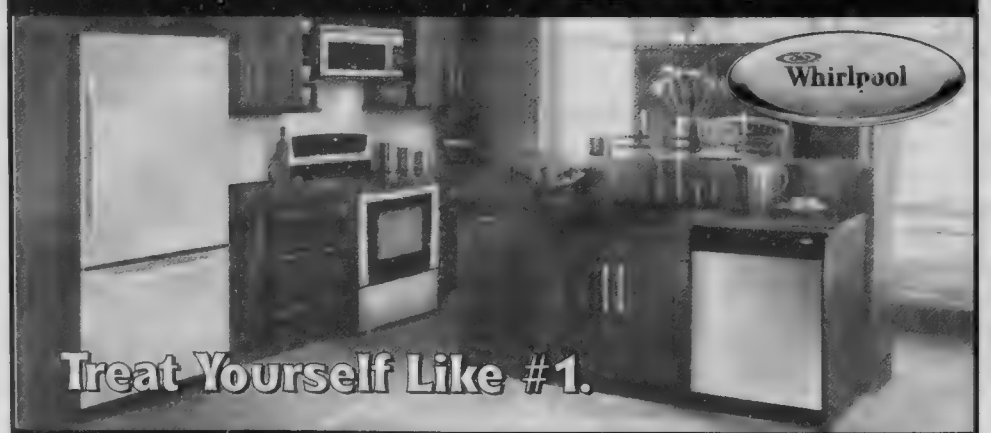

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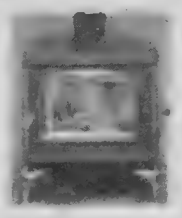

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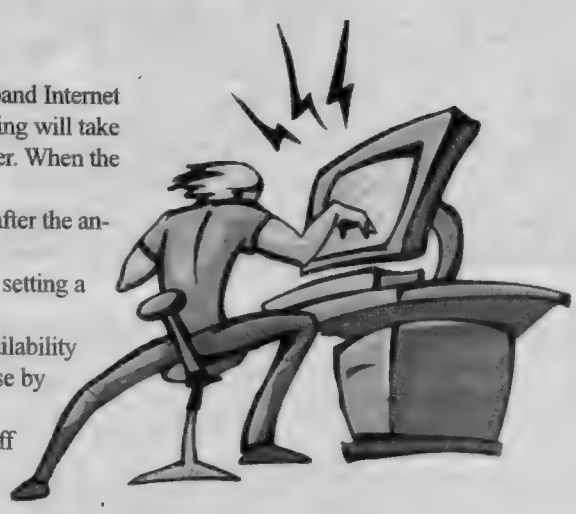

Since the Ontario Government's announcement of a $1 million dollar investment in Haliburton County for the expansion of broadband Internet infrastructure, prisoners of dial-up have been holding their breath to learn when they'll get high speed service. Unfortunately the waiting will take until at least the end of January and even then it will only be to find out who will be serviced first and who will have to wait a bit longer. When the proverbial shovel hits the ground remains to be seen.

Representatives from the County and their partner, Bell Aliant were scheduled to meet last week and lay out a plan of action shortly after the announcement was made. But according to County CAO Jim Wilson, things are on hold until Bell can develop a detailed plan.

"We won't know the order in which areas will be done until late January. Basically Bell is looking at engineering requirements and setting a logical sequence for the work required." Wilson said.

"There's a whole range of factors involved from establishing the proximity of each area to be serviced to existing infrastructure to availability of parts and equipment for the project." Wilson went on to say that he has asked Bell Aliant's General Manager Jim Neubauer, to advise by e-mail as soon as these details are finalized. He hopes to take the list to County Council in late January.

Local cottage associations who have fought hard for the service, as well as businesses trying to launch their websites and get things off the ground are disappointed at the thought of any additional down time. One local businessman said that when he spoke with Bell in the early fall they had expressed hopes of having shovels in the ground by November. It looks more like spring construction now.■

Wild Game Dinners and Literary and Poster Winners

By Mel Smith, Wilberforce Legion

The Legion's Wildlife Dinner was an evening to remember as everyone had the opportunity to sample the well prepared array of wild meats that included moose meat balls, bear, moose, buffalo cabbage rolls, elk steak, venison, turkey, beef, elk sausage, along with veggies, homemade dinner rolls and pies. Everyone found the food to be absolutely delicious. A big thank you goes out to Brian Eves, Richard Young, Barb Roberts, Andrea Brome, Connie Rees, Marg Rideout, Joan Clark, Mary Dunne, Luanne Coghlan, Marg Jones, Rebecca Woollett, Terry Mowatt-Smith, Manfred Stellar, John Glassey, Debbie Cachia, Rick and Jean Rowe and ticket seller Chandler Eves. All these men and ladies worked very hard to make this a very special evening for over 110 people. Please accept my apologies if I have overlooked anyone.

Legion Branch 624 is very pleased to announce the names of the many young students who participated in the Zone F-5 Branch Remembrance Literary and Poster 2008 program. The entries were excellent depicting a very sound understanding of the sacrifices made on our behalf by many young men and women in World Wars 1 and II, the Korean War, and who are presently putting their personal security at risk in the name of peace and humanity in places like Bosnia, Cyprus, Haiti, Afghanistan, and other such unstable and war torn countries.

We would like to extend a big thank you to Claire and Ed Loft who had the difficult job of judging the entries and to Youth Education Officer Valerie Smith for organizing this annual event. The students will be presented with their certificates this week and prize money amounting to $280.00. Now we would like to give a big note of thanks to the following students for their splendid work: Grade 1, 2 Colour Posters: Becca Pacey, Austin French, Claudette Cohen, Brooke Billings, Evan Cachia, Brittany Lampman, and Jacob Wood. Grade 3, 4 Colour Posters: Ethan Evans, Taylor Davies, Cody Lampan, Kendra Anderson, Jason Wood and Lily Rose Drain. Grade 5, 6 Colour Posters: Rebecca Anderson, Kelsey Maracle, Matthew Hunter, Cole Finlay, Tyler Casey, Carly Raimey, Susie Cachia and Stan Riley. Grade 1, 2 Black and White Poster: Kadie Raimey Grade 3, 4 Black and White Poster: Dylan Smith, Dillon Tallman, Carmen Galea, Drew Deterling and Keisha Hughes Grade 5, 6 Black and White Poster: Patricia Savard, Caleb Manus, Lloyd Callfas, Jade McCartney, Eryn Solmes and Victor Townsend.

Grade 3, 4 Literary Essay Compositions: Keisha Hughes, Carmen Galea and Caleb Manus

Grade 5, 6 Literary Essay Compositions: Jade McCartney, Lloyd Callfas, Tyler Casey and Patricia Savard. Grade 5, 6 Literary Poem Compositions: Eryn Solmes, Rebecca Anderson, Stan Riley, Kelsey Maracle and Taylor Lewis.

We are very proud to have over 44 entries from our small school of only 65 students. Just excellent response!

We would like to wish the following students all the very best as they continue on to the Zone competitions: Keisha Hughes, Eryn Solmes, Rebecca Anderson, Patricia Savard, Becca Pacey and Kadie Raimey. ■

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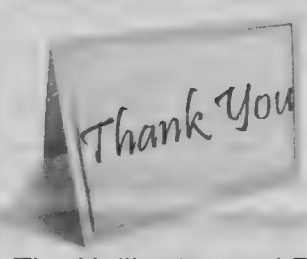
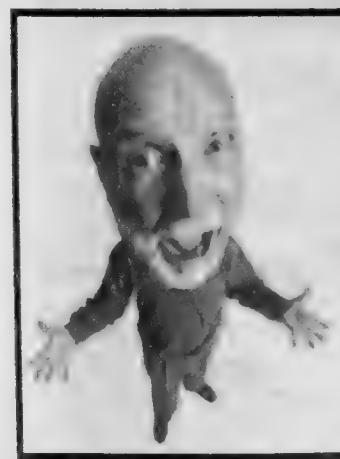


The Haliburton and District Lions want to thank all those who supported the Coats for Kids Campaign. Over 300 coats were donated and distributed, making sure that our young ones can stay warm this winter. What a wonderfully supportive community we live in! Watch for the campaign next year. We're considering expanding the program to include adult coats as well.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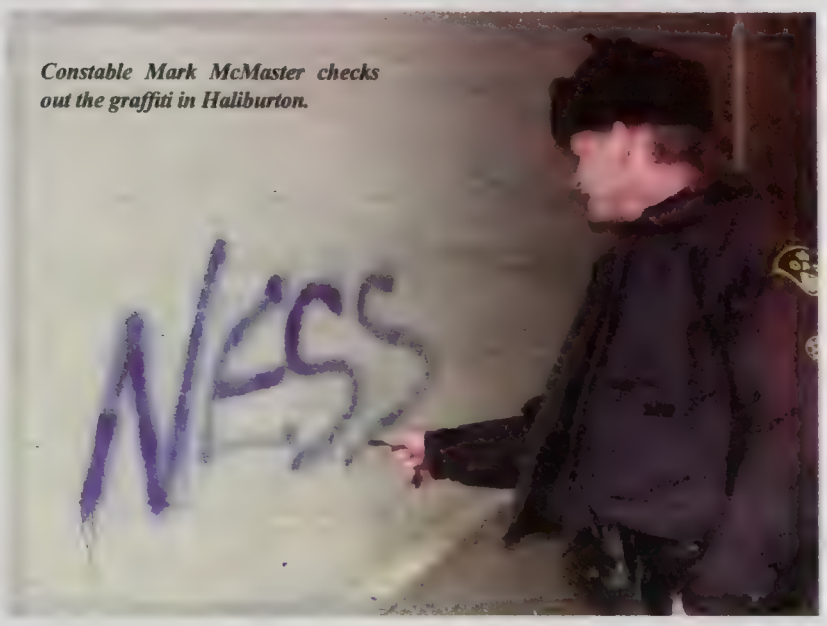
Graffiti Isn't the Work of Gangs, Says Provincial Co-ordinator for Gang Issues

Vandals Spread Mixed Messages in Haliburton

Mark Arike
Staff Reporter



Constable Mark McMaster checks out the graffiti in Haliburton.

When Rena Woodley, owner of the Country Kitchen Bulk Food Store in Haliburton, came to her business on the morning of Tuesday, Dec. 2, she felt like a personal attack had been made on her.

That's because vandals had spray-painted blue graffiti on her store's window and on the adjacent brick wall.

"I was really upset," said Woodley. "I didn't know what to think, I felt like it was an attack on me."

Woodley reported the incident to the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment. An officer was sent to the scene to document the incident.

But not only was her storefront defaced, so was the alleyway that leads to the Stedman's V&S department store.

Blue spray paint, which still remains on the walls and hand railing, doesn't appear to be the work of a gang member, says Pierre Gautier, Provincial Coordinator for Gang Issues with the OPP.

"It just looks like it's been done by kids who are up to no good," said Gautier, while reviewing photos from the scene taken by The Voice. Gautier pointed out that though two of the symbols in the alleyway represent actual gang signs, a true gang member wouldn't be putting up these sorts of "mixed messages."

"One of the simplistic tags is a three-point crown, which is associated with the Crips gang and the other is a five-point star which belongs to the Bloods gang," he explained. "This is conflicting graffiti. My take on it is that these are just graffiti artists tagging, but there is a remote possibility that these are kids mimicking gang signs." Both the Crips and Bloods gang's are groups that were founded in Los Angeles and have a brutal rivalry with one another.

Gautier says that certain media does glorify gang activity. This can have a large influence on kids.

"If kids start off mimicking this stuff it can lead to them joining a youth gang and becoming involved in bullying, intimidation, selling drugs and committing property crime. As this all intensifies, they no longer are contributing members of society," he said.

The sooner the graffiti is removed from the walls the better, says Gautier.

"It's imperative that the graffiti be cleaned off as soon as possible. They'll just keep doing more and more of it if they see it stays up there."

Vince Connaughan, owner of the buildings, says he's disappointed to see this happening in the town.

"This has been a continual problem," said Connaughan in a phone interview with The Voice. "They've also been defacing the washroom in the building."

Connaughan adds that graffiti has progressively become more of a problem, especially in the last year. He says he intends on having the marking covered up once the temperatures go above the freezing mark.

"We'll have to repaint the whole wall because we can't paint over concrete," he said.

Murray Fearrey, Reeve of Haliburton, lent his comments on the recent rash of vandalism.

"We need to stop this," said Fearrey. "It takes away from the Village and the level where we should be at as a community."

Fearrey urges the public to remain vigilent and report any sightings of suspicious activity to their local OPP.

"We just need people to speak up if they see it happen," he said, while leaving a message for the vandal(s) responsible. "Sooner or later someone will see you. You might think that you're getting away with it now, but you'll get caught."

Charges for this type of activity would fall under the mischief category and could be punishable by fines and/or imprisonment.

If you see any suspicious activity in your town, call the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment at 705 286-1431 or toll free at 1-888-310-1122.■

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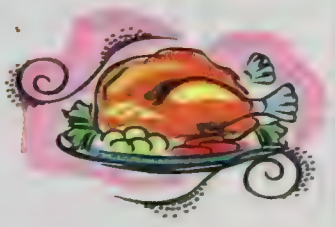
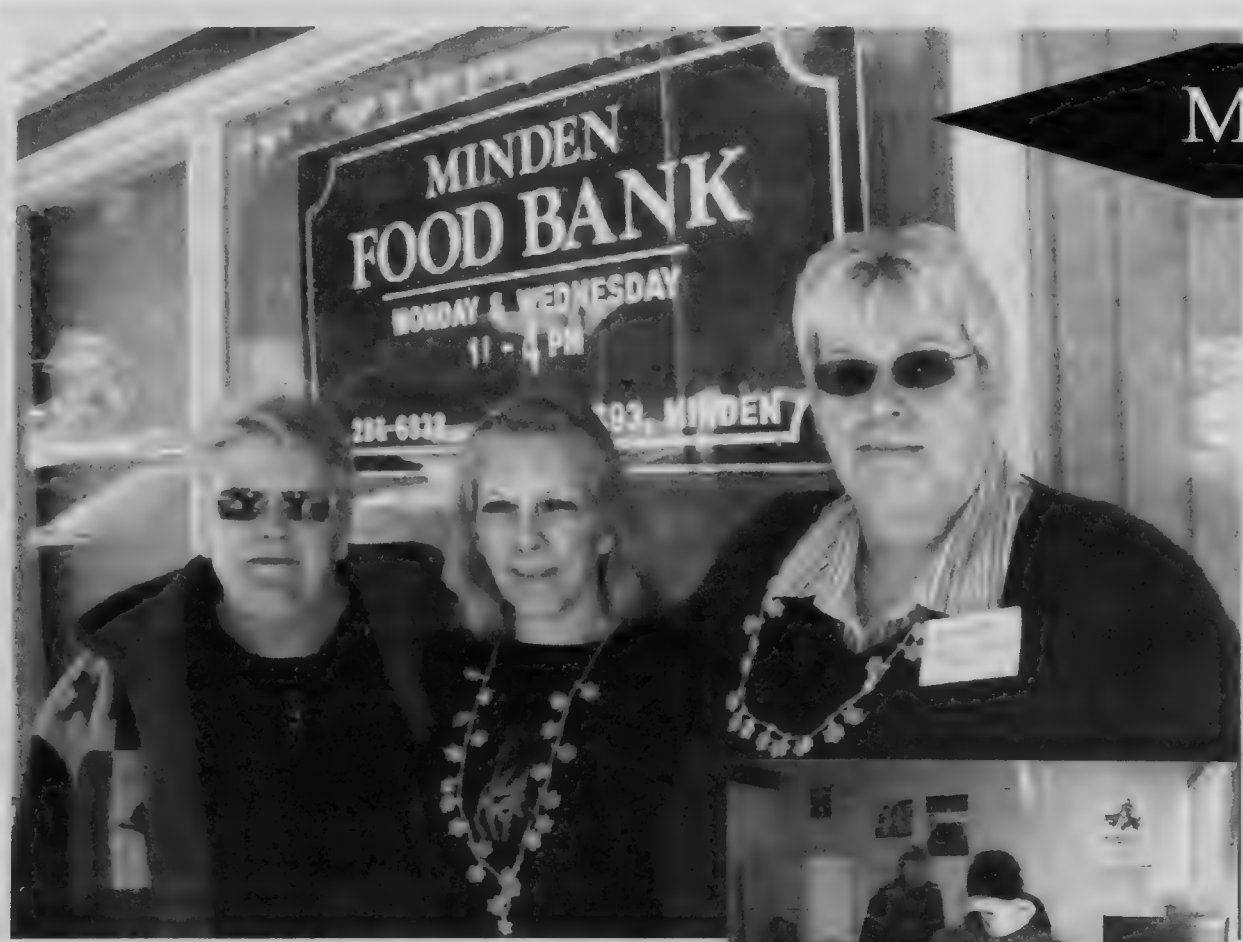


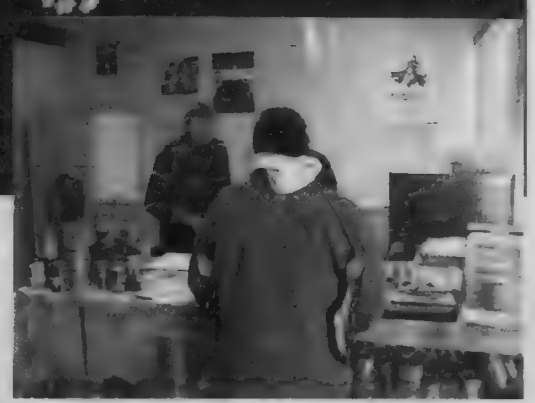
Please call to register by Dec. 18th

Lakeside Baptist Church @ 457-2851
Steve & Stephanie Smith @ 457-3394
or Sue Bain @ 457-2570

Lakeside Baptist Church
9 Park Street
Haliburton, ON
457-2851

Minden Food Bank





Volunteers assist a customer Barbara Walford-Davis, Lindsay MacLean and Joanne Barnes of the Minden Food Bank

by George Farrell

If you want to know how the economy's doing, you need look no further than the Minden Food Bank. "This year has seen an increase of 78 new families register." That's more than double last year and "its directly attributable to the bad economy," says Barbara Walford-Davis, Chairperson for the Minden Food Bank Board. "Food Banks are for families, the unemployed, working poor and some persons with a disability. We help to make ends meet by supplying them with food and necessities."

The Minden Food Bank has been in operation since 1991, where it started, in a small way, in the basement of St Paul's Anglican Church. In 2008 the equivalent of $80,000 plus has been donated in food and cash from organizations like service groups, churches, and cottage associations.

The Ministry of Natural Resources also occasionally donates meat from confiscated fish, moose and deer, taken out of season. Additional supplies come from local grocery stores and pharmacies who give a generous discount on their products. Individuals also contribute money and supplies.

"The local people have been great at supporting the food bank," says volunteer Joanne Barnes, who runs the day to day operations in Minden. "Betty Milford from the knitters group has bought in a total of 107 handmade knitted toques, and the group has contributed many blankets. Bruce Payne, a long time cottager from Newmarket contributes fresh potatoes, onions and carrots, and children from Archie Stouffer elementary school also donate fresh vegetables, which they grow on the grounds of the Minden Museum."

Joanne Barnes also looks after the food net distribution for the Minden Food Bank. "We get occasional skids of food from the Ontario Food Bank, and we distribute it equitably to other food banks in Wilberforce and Cardiff, Community Care in Haliburton, and even to students in need who are attending Sir Sandford Fleming College. We service Minden, Kinmount, Norland, Algonquin Highlands, Dorset, parts of Dysart and Gooderham." she reveals.

"The reason there is so much overlap in other areas is due to the fact that some people don't have transportation." The food bank doesn't deliver. "So people have to depend on rides from friends and neighbours. Some of those drivers come to Minden on a regular basis to shop and work, and some of our customers come in with them."

"Anybody who's in need can come into the Minden office," says Barbara Walford-Davis. "We do up a questionnaire, and we make up a contract between us. They have to agree to only use this food bank. They can come in once a month, unless there's an emergency. So, if they run low on food before the next visit, we won't turn them down. On their first visit we double up (on quantity) to get them started. We ask if they have school-aged kids, because we have special foods designed for kids' lunches."

The amount of food a family gets varies with the number of people in the family, but basically each family member gets one bag of food which is filled from the stock of supplies kept at the food bank. The list of supplies is long and healthy. Staples consist of milk, and powdered milk, eggs, bread, ground beef and pork, soups, canned tuna salmon ham and turkey, and cereals, to name just a few items. There are also toiletries, baby formula, and liquid meal replacements for people who can't intake solids.

For the Minden Food Bank, Christmas is just another time of year, and the busiest times are probably the months of January and February, when the weather is the coldest, and unemployment at its highest. However the food bank works closely with the Christmas Basket Campaign, and they get many requests about the baskets. "When people phone in to us we refer them to the Zion United Church in Carnarvon (489-2062), which is where the basket campaign is run from," says Lindsay MacLean, a Minden Food Bank volunteer, who also heads up fundraising. "The basket campaign is manned by food bank volunteers and others from our communities, and it's an intense two days of packaging baskets."

The pick up date for the Christmas Baskets is between 1pm and 4 pm on December 22nd, at the Minden Community Centre, which is located at 55 Parkside Avenue in Minden, above the arena. After December 12th you will no longer be able to phone in your request for a Christmas Basket, but don't worry, baskets can still be ordered by calling Barb at (705) 489-1715 or Ron at (705) 489-2431.

Remarkably the Minden Food Bank manages to raise enough to also contribute $300 a month to Community Care for Seniors and people on the Ontario Disability Support Programme. If you need assistance, or would like to volunteer or donate to the Minden Food Bank, more information is available by calling Barb, or the Minden Food Bank at (705) 286-6838. The address is 37 Bobcaygeon Rd, Box 893 Minden, ON, K0M 2K0. You can also email them at mindenfoodbank@interhop.net. Hours of operation are Monday and Wednesday, 11am-4pm. ■

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TO: Haliburton County Families in Need of Assistance at Christmas

To promote fairness and efficiency for all concerned, please note our distribution policy.

Requests for assistance must be made by the recipient between Monday, Dec 1 to Saturday, December 13, 2008
Phone 457-3331 between 10 am & 3:00 pm

****NOTE CHANGES****

There will be NO deliveries made by the 4C's Pick-ups must be done personally. Nobody else can sign for you.

You can arrange to pick up your food box at any of the 4 following locations on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 OR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2008. 10 AM TO 3 PM.

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2. WILBERFORCE FIRE HALL - For those located in Tory Hill, Harcourt and Wilberforce.
3. CARDIFF UNTIED CHURCH - For those located in the Cardiff area.
4. MINDEN AREA. Call 489-2062. ONE PICK UP DAY: Monday, Dec 22 between 1 pm & 3 pm.

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New Years Gala
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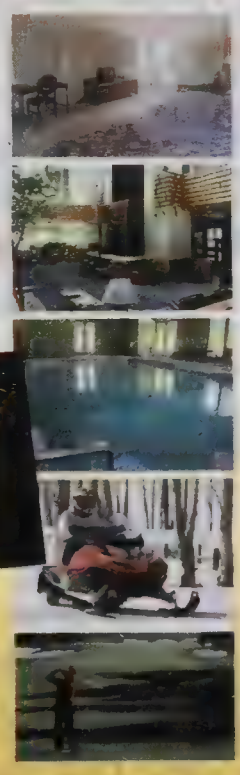

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Enjoy a Special Menu in Heatherwood
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Ladies' Fashions
$25
$25 off any purchase of $100 or more
One discount per customer per purchase
Not to be combined with other offers
Offer valid until Dec. 31, 2008
The County Voice

Bob & Wendy's Haliburton
FOODLAND
$1
$1 off purchase of 3 (1Litre)Kawartha Dairy Egg Nogs
One discount per customer per purchase
Offer valid until Dec. 31, 2008
The County Voice

Teddy Time
Haliburton Ontario
A bear for all reasons!
$15
$15 off any purchase of $50 or more
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Haliburton 457-1402
Home hardware
$15
Just mention this ad and receive the deal !!
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$15 off any purchase over $100
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Novelties, Clothing, Gifts & More!
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$5
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$5
$5 off when you purchase 5 bags of Deer Feed.
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Minden Home hardware & Building Centre

Fax 705-286-4544
Main Street, Minden
286-1351

$10

$10 off any toy purchases of $100 or more

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$20 off any purchase of $100 or more

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Village Barn - Lower Level
Highland St. Haliburton

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$5 off any purchase of $40 or more

One discount per customer per purchase
Not to be combined with other offers
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The County Voice

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JanKnitsstudio.com
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214 Highland St. Haliburton

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The County Voice

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$100 off any purchase of $1000 or more in Furniture.

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Offer valid until Dec. 31, 2008

The County Voice

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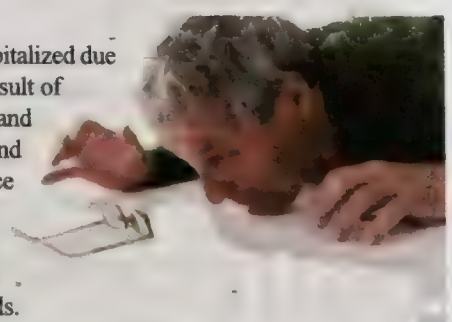
Photos By: Lyn Winans

Minden is a little brighter now that the official Tree Lighting Ceremony has taken place at the Village Green. Local residents gathered to watch the lighting and celebrate with song.

Family Health Team Promote Falls Prevention

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

"We wanted to establish a program that would prevent seniors from falling through the cracks." (Carol Browne)



Over 80% of the seniors in Ontario who were hospitalized due to injuries during 2004 and 2005 were there as a result of falling. Dismayed at these numbers, Carol Browne and Angela Van Berlo have been working together and with others for over two years to find a way to reduce them. They have come up with a program that they think will help, and have been promoting their 'Falls Prevention Referral Program' throughout the County, starting with the Municipal Councils.

Browne, the Healthy Seniors Coordinator with the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team, and Van Berlo, a Health Promoter involved with injury prevention at the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, have recently visited with both the Highlands East and Algonquin Highlands Councils as part of their plan to increase awareness about their referral program. They will continue to make presentations with key partners throughout the County.

According to Browne, with the baby boomer population aging, by 2015 there will be more people 65 and over than 15 years and younger in Ontario for the first time. In fact, seniors will comprise over 50 percent of the County's population. Even today 24 percent of the population in Haliburton is over the age of 65 compared with the provincial average of 13 percent.

The Canadian Falls Prevention Curriculum defines a fall as "unintentionally coming to rest on the ground, floor or other lower level with or without an injury." Van Berlo reviewed some facts about the number of falls experienced by seniors in Ontario and the impact on emergency departments and the cost of health care.

Van Berlo said that in Ontario, falls in every age group are the most costly type of unintentional injury, totalling more than $1.9 billion dollars each year. This is followed by motor vehicle collisions at $1.1 billion. Seniors (55+ years) account for $962 million dollars, almost half of fall costs.

While in Algonquin Highlands, Van Berlo said that (based on statistics provided by Pat Kennedy, Director of EMS Haliburton County) 41 calls were made between June and August of last year to homes of people over the age of 60 that had fallen and needed help. There are at least 2000 falls in Haliburton County each year among seniors and 800 of them result in a fracture. This has made falls prevention for seniors a planning priority for the County.

According to Van Berlo a multi-factorial approach was needed for a successful program. She said they had looked at a variety of projects and studies on falls prevention and considered things like home layout and footwear, exercise with balance training, appropriate use of assistive devices, review and modification of medication and managing visual concerns.

In October of 2007 they held an organizational meeting with a variety of agencies and organization to discuss falls prevention. Eleven different organizations and agencies from the County who work with seniors were represented and they identified the need for a central referral number for falls data that a multi-disciplinary approach was needed to manage falls and that support workers would need training on falls prevention. According to Browne, the training will help workers to identify where their patients should be directed for appropriate ongoing care.

Browne said, "We wanted to establish a program that would prevent seniors from falling through the cracks. We have created a referral program that can be used by anyone and everyone, with an overall goal of keeping people independent."

As part of the program, referral forms will be distributed throughout the County. Community members and health care workers who are trying to assist a senior who has fallen or could be at risk of falling can, with the senior's consent, complete the referral form and submit it to the Family Health Team.

Brown said that when they get a referral, an initial assessment will be completed to determine the needs of the senior and the type of care that could be required to make their environment safer. Follow up would be ongoing to determine how the program is working and if the senior is happy with the service that is being recommended for them.

According to Van Berlo and Browne, one of the goals of the program is to improve the health care system by encouraging service providers to work collaboratively, to better utilize resources and to decrease hospital stays.

Browne also spoke about their partnership with the VON on the SMART Program (Seniors Maintaining Active Roles Together) that was initiated out of the Centre for Aging in London. The SMART program is an exercise program for older adults. It addresses issues like osteoporosis, arthritis, stroke, diabetes and stress and is designed to encourage participation in daily living and decrease the risk of falls. Browne said that they had just completed their first 15 week series in August, adding that it is their goal to have a program running in every small community in the County.

This news was welcomed by the Algonquin Highlands Council. Reeve Eleanor Harrison said that she would like to see a program started at both Club 35 and the Stanhope Firefighters Community Centre. Councillor Diane Griffin said that there were four halls in Algonquin Highlands that could be used if seniors groups are interested.

In response to a question on cost to the seniors, Brown said that there was a fee of $2.00 per session for 15 weeks. She said if that was a problem the fee would be whatever the senior could afford and if cost was a real concern, there would be no charge at all. ■

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Axis PHARMACY
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Minden
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One discount per customer per purchase
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Offer valid until Dec. 31, 2008
The County Voice

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$25 off any purchase of $100 or more
One discount per customer per purchase
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Offer valid until Dec. 31, 2008
The County Voice

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The County Voice

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The County Voice

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Haliburton History in Pictures – Just in Time for Christmas

The must-have book of the season!!

The Haliburton Highlands Museum, with a little help from their friends, has produced a 150 page history of Haliburton in pictures, just in time for the Christmas season.

The Museum Book Committee has been working for the past number of years collecting and annotating hundreds of photographs that depict the life and times of Haliburton County over the past century and a half. Museum Director Thomas Ballantine and Curator Stephen Hill were the prime movers of the project: Sandi Luck designed the final product, and the extensive notes accompanying the pictures were gleaned from many past published histories.

Haliburton: A History in Pictures, is available at the Museum in Haliburton, and at Masters Books and Undercover Books in Haliburton. The price is $30.

■

Laking's Second Mill

Fish Tales

Birthday Party

The Black Bridge

Pictured top, then left to right...

Laking Mill on the Drag Lake Millpond just above Haliburton (see the Methodist Church, now the United Church, in the background.)

An early and ill-fated attempt at gold mining in Haliburton.

Fish Party hosted by William Lucas on Indian Point, Drag Lake.

Girls Birthday Party, circa 1900, on the lawn of the Jack Anderson home on the south side of Highland Street in Haliburton.

The Black Bridge over the Drag, built in 1912, removed in 1975.

"Alligator Boat" towing log booms on Outlet Bay, Drag Lake, circa 1907

The Royal Koo-Shog Hotel, in 1921, on the old Fleming College site overlooking Head Lake (and where the Watercolours Condominium project is planned.)

Alligator Boat

Royal Koo-Shog Hotel

For more photos buy the book!!

Arctic Cold Temperatures Couldn't Stop This Parade in Wilberforce

Santa Clause and all his friends came to Wilberforce this past Saturday for the annual Santa Clause Parade. Following the parade, kids and their families gathered in the Lloyd Watson Centre to receive presents and pose for photos with jolly old St. Nick himself.

Also while in the Lloyd Watson Centre, kids had the opportunity to participate in arts and crafts projects and sing Christmas carols.

In the time leading up to the parade, presents were gathered up by local merchants that were then given to children up to the age of 10. The day's festivities were sponsored by the Highlands East Fire Department.

A community carol service was also held in the evening at the Wilberforce United Church.

According to Joanne Hughey, one of the organizers of the event, there were about 20 entries in this year's parade. ■

Photos by Mark Arike

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Highland Wind Symphony Ignites a Pleasant Afternoon

Orchestra's 10th annual Christmas concert a stunning success

Three weeks before Christmas, and shopping, the pressing urgency of plum pudding prep work, the annual call to alms stringing of the lights, and the search for the perfect tree, were all put on hold for just a few hours.

Last Sunday afternoon Highlands residents trudged through an unseasonably cold snap, crackle and pop and the squeaking snow to visit serenity via the gentle waft and wane of an indoor breeze; the warm strains of a wind ensemble. Moments in time suspended for a brief respite.

A few scattered parsecs spent listening to some friends, neighbors and relatives playing flute, sax, horn, drum and bell together on stage at the Northern Lights Pavilion.

Minutes spent remembering why we live in a small town.

We live here not because we are closet anarchists, have some form of neon-induced claustrophobia, or because we suffer from chronic and aching agoraphobia.

Nope. We live here, I think, because we have become enamored of the essence of the rural tug, and because we like to bask, unabashed and snug in the singular glow that hangs shimmering like those icicle light strings spilled loosely and warmly over a welcome wreath atop an opened door.

It is implied that doors are open here in the Highlands. Especially in this season where red and green melds so fluent with winter's white. That quintessence was brought into fulsome glow last Sunday afternoon as the Highlands Wind Symphony etched its indelible imprimatur over a stage in front of a large crowd of just plain folks gathered at the Northern Lights performing Arts Pavilion.

No different really than a Christmas concert given by the Toronto Symphony, except perhaps that audience seating is driven, not by pricing, but by unhindered sight lines to a certain member of the ensemble. A son or a daughter, an uncle or aunt, a mom or a dad vying for the best vantage from which to spy their favorite musician plying his or her trade midst this group of friends. An ensemble of souls joined by muse.

A group of friends who practice devoid of any monetary inducement, who play for the pure joy of the exercise. Because music really does have a capacity to foment a special spark in psyche.

Last Sunday, a group of friends played wonderfully and finished to a rousing standing ovation. This was not however a concert. A concert implies performer and audience.

This was instead a collaboration, a fusion of audience and minstrel.

This, unlike that bright burp currently ruminating in Ottawa, was a true "working coalition." A concert where non-partisan forces joined in celebration, reminding us all that it can be done, if we've a mind to do it.

Fitting then that everyone's favorite friend and neighbor Jack Brezina managed festivities, acting as the Master of Ceremonies for the 10th annual Christmas Concert. Brezina had the happy task of introducing the audience to the two vibrant and driven personalities behind the Highlands Wind Symphony, Lorie Reddering and Glen Carter, the tireless co-conductors of the ensemble.

Carter and Reddering may be the straws that stir this particular drink, but they gave credit to all of the musicians during the course of the two-hour concert. And indeed, this may be an all-volunteer rural orchestra, but they showed little fear in moving through a large and varied play list. From a Boston Pops-like tribute to big screen music called Hollywood Milestones, to the theme from Schindler's List, to the moving Hymn to the Fallen, the ensemble produced strong and vibrant strains that rumbled through the hall.

In the second half of the program, a number of the musicians traded places and instruments to form the lively Highlands String Band under the direction of Judy Cole.

The Swing band amped up the tempo with some nifty selections including "One for the Road," "Hard hearted Hannah," and the challenging and funky "Chamelon."

Of course, no concert in the Highlands would be complete without the appearance of a few special guests.

Jerelyn Craden, playwright, author, actress and chanteuse added juke, jump and stellar acoustics to the Swing Band's rendition of "My Funny Valentine" a tune that sparked rollicking applause from the Highlands faithful. Craden's strong voice and impeccable delivery formed just one highlight in this multi-layered ensemble performance.

Other guest artists included the stirring and soulful duet of Cicela Mansson and Stella terHart who delighted the crowd with solo voice and piano offerings in the first half of the concert and then returned in the second act with a beautiful harp and voice recital. Songs like "Merry Little Christmas" and a very special version of Ray Charles's "What a Wonderful World" struck a deep-chorded resonance with the audience, terHart's vibrant piano and harp melding mellifluously with Mansson's deep-seated and resounding soprano stylings.

Brezina also invited an old friend down from the audience to assist with the traditional and de rigueur Christmas Carol sing-along. The audience was invited to partake in the Velvet Fog's (Mel Torme) The Christmas Song and Irving Berlin's White Christmas midway through the performance.

The fitting wrapper to the delightful afternoon came when Brezina, who had changed into a stunning knitted red and green Christmas vest, invited all cast members, guests and audience members to again join the effervescent Miller in the concert's finale, another sing-along to that traditional favorite, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

A beautiful and fitting ending to a truly stirring seasonal event.

And a reminder, as the audience spilled into –15-degree temperatures in the Haliburton High School parking lot after the performance, that seasonal warmth is truly a state of mind.

The warmth proffered by a packed Pavilion or that afterglow on a slow ride home, framed by the lakes, lights and moonlit night, three weeks before Christmas in the Highlands.

And a niggling, but pervading notion that wealth encompasses more than a thin define of a bottom line. ■

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Dark Lake Road Re-Opens

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

The controversial matter of the Dark Lake Road in Wilberforce and whether a portion of it should be re-opened or not, has finally been decided. This week the Highlands East Council passed the by-law that officially re-opens the road.

Despite the opinion of the people living in the area who paid costs to have the road closed initially, Council was almost unanimous in their agreement that the road should be re-opened. At a previous meeting when discussing the closure Council voiced concern about complaints of misuse of the area by four wheelers and snow machines and members of the public being hassled when they used the pathway that the old section of the road had become.

"You should call it the Road of Shame." (Vanessa Devouge)

CAO Sharon Stoughton-Craig told Council that she had been advised by the municipality's lawyer that prior to passage of the by-law, people who had shown an interest in the road should be notified of the meeting. In fact, five people representing the families who live on the section of road that has been closed for more than five years were in attendance at the meeting.

It quickly became apparent that because of the 'notice of meeting', they were under the impression that it was a public meeting and one where they would be allowed to make comments or ask questions. However, according to Stoughton-Craig, no requests were made to Council for delegations. She informed those present that the meeting would be open to them to attend and listen only.

Ignoring the rule about addressing Council, Bill Tallman asked what their rationale for re-opening the road was and if they decided to proceed with the by-law, when the road would be opened. Reeve Dave Burton quickly quashed rumours that the road would be opened immediately, saying that it was unlikely that any action would be taken until spring. Burton then asked Council if they wished to hear any delegations, but the rest of Council did not appear to be so inclined, given that delegations had been heard on the matter last month.

What they did agree to, was to move passage of the by-law forward so those attending the meeting would know how the vote had gone. Tallman spoke up again and advised Council that the residents living on the closed section of the road would be pursing legal action against Council.

Without further ado, Council proceeded to pass the by-law which officially re-opened the road. All of the Councillors present, with the exception of Burton voted in favour of the by-law. Councillor Suzanne Partridge, who has openly thrown her support behind keeping the road closed, was not in attendance.

As the members of the public prepared to leave Vanessa Devouge said, "It should be called the road of shame!" She told Council that they were throwing good money away to cover the cost of the re-opening. (Estimates to complete the work have ranged from as low as $12,500 to as much as $25,000.) Devouge said, "Anyone who voted in favour of the re-opening should be ashamed of themselves." The group then left.

Deputy Reeve Jim Mackie expressed his desire to go on the public record about their decision. He said, "The fact that any members of Council who voted on this who were called with attempts to influence their decision by veiled or even open threats, shows the calibre of the person making those threats." Mackie went on to say that the threats were totally unacceptable.

Several members of Council spoke openly after the meeting about getting telephone calls the night before the meeting from someone trying to influence their vote in a manner that was less than friendly, to say the least.

Mackie admitted that the complaints from the public combined with the threats to Council and general bad behaviour on the part of the people involved were all likely part of the reason for Council's decision.

Burton, who had previously voted against re-opening the road, later commented that as Reeve his vote was not actually required other than to break a tie. He told the Voice that he had originally voted against the motion in the hopes of holding a public meeting to allow more opportunity for the public to comment. "In this case, there was no need for my vote given the desire of all three of the Councillors present."

Later in the meeting Council spoke with their Road Superintendent, Barry Dunford on how to proceed with the re-opening. Burton said that he would like to wait until spring before taking any action, given concerns about salt getting into wells on the lake side of the road.

However, a brief discussion ensued and it was agreed that the rocks blocking access, any signage and benches would be removed immediately. No salt will be applied to the road over the winter and a 20 kilometre/hour speed limit will be posted. There will be no snow ploughing done and skidoo traffic will be allowed. ■

The Beat Goes On...

24-Hour Drum-a-thon Raises Funds for HIV/AIDS Projects in Africa

The thundering sounds of drums could be heard radiating through the Rails End Gallery & Arts Centre for a 24-hour period between Saturday and Sunday of last week for the 2008 Drum-a-thon Celebration.

Participants in the drum-a-thon were there to drum the day and night away while they raised funds to support the gallery and the work of the Abbey North Drummers in Africa and Canada.

Prizes were awarded to those who collected the most donations, including a drum from the drum-a-thon for first prize and a free community drum circle event that will be hosted by Abbey North Drummers for second prize. A selection of the Ngoma drums will be on exhibit at the Rails End until January 4th, 2009. ■

MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL
Roads Department
By-law Department

WINTER PARKING

Now that the snow is arriving, the Municipality of Dysart et al would like to remind drivers to ensure they have adequate parking off of municipal roads. Vehicles parked on municipal roads, in turnarounds and other areas the Municipality plows makes it difficult for the Municipal Roads Department to safely maintain roads. Additionally, parked vehicles create a hazard for other motorists travelling on the roads, and even once a vehicle is moved it leaves a portion of the road that has not been maintained creating a further hazard.
Therefore, vehicles found parked on municipal roads interfering with the removal of snow, sanding or road maintenance will receive a $200.00 fine and/or may be towed at the owners expense in accordance with By-law No. 93-19.

Brian Nicholson
Roads Superintendent

Matthew Aldom
By-law Officer

SNOW REMOVAL

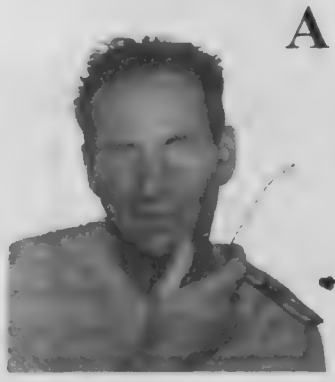
The Highway Traffic Act R.S.O. 1990, C. H.8, S. 181 states "No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing to do so from the Ministry or road authority responsible for maintenance of the road". The penalty on conviction is a fine of $105.00.

Staff Sgt. Jim Peterkin
Haliburton Highlands O.P.P.

COUNTY VOICE
SPORTS

You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation.
- Plato

A Very Disturbing Young Man – All He Wants for Christmas is...



Avery's antics aggravating and will abbreviate his career

Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor

True story. When I first heard the refrain in the song, "All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth, my two front teeth, my two front teeth," I really thought the pithy, pattered paean had been written for my boyhood idol, former Flin Flon Bomber and Philly Flyer great, Bobby Clarke.

Some of you may remember Bobby's penchant for showing up on front pages of tabloid sports sheets, and during televised Stanley Cup presentations with that wide, Grand Canyonesque gap-tooth grin. That lack of cuspidity was Bobby Clarke's battle scar. Like all combat-weary warriors, Clarke wore that gapped, uncapped and toothless rack with great pride. It was, for years his calling card, his modus vivendi, his shield, and his sword.

Then I did my research and found, to my utter dismay, that Clarky was never the larger than life entity behind the song and never uttered that beautiful second verse: "It seems so long since I could say, Sister Susie sitting on a thistle. Gosh, oh gee, how happy I'd be If I could only whistle."

In fact, Bobby Clarke never once regretted the loss of his two front teeth. And he certainly never asked Santa for redress on this issue of chompers lost in two plus decades of ice wars until much later in life when his wife, vanity, and the prodigious step up the upper management ladder mandated a repatriation of his grill.

Tis' the season, and working on that theme, my tangential and misfiring neuro-synaptic rhythms formed another rendition of that same song, a yuletide tune dedicated to the ever pernicious and slavering schnook Sean Avery.

I figured it out, finally, after reading long tomes on Avery's recent breach of sensibilities and his latest lash and fast-crash with looming limbo from hockey. Remember that hockey, a grand institution, has sustained Avery in fast cars, fast company and a singular sense of entitlement for a goodly number of years.

It has put dinner on his table, a roof on his head, and a provided him with a $3.5 million yearly stipend. If you or I were popping a cool three mill per annum I think that we would begin our day with a roll out of bed and drop to our knees, and subsequent prayer of thanks to whatever entity had provided us with the requisite gifts that have allowed us to demand a king's ransom for playing a game that we love.

Alas, poor Sean has not tweaked to such premonition, preferring instead to while away his fast-declining years, dropping poppycock, rambunctious rhetoric and misogynist muddle on a hockey cognoscente, who are finally tired of the boop, bop and bumpkin Sean Avery, an insignificant twerp who is now and will remain a loud lout and obnoxious boom box of bumpkis.

Avery does not need a refurbished set of pearly whites, but he does need something. Something drastic. Something life affirming. Something big. Nay, something huge.

He needs some reclamation and it ain't coming from his teammates, who have voted through their silence, and implication via rolled eyes, that they don't want him back. It ain't coming from the editorial staff at Vogue where he worked as an unpaid intern last summer. It ain't coming from former teammates who have called him a jerk, a boob and a deconstructive force in the locker room. It ain't coming from Dallas Stars's management who have removed him from the team's website. And it's not coming from the sportswriters, who have run him over with a collective truck, placed foot on brake, and then backed over him again … just to make sure.

Nope, folks. It's gotta' come from an entity that rides above this earthen pale.

It's gotta' come from Santa Claus. So help me out here, as we sing Bobby Clarke's old tune … festooned with some new words; a verse and a wish for poor Sean, who just doesn't seem to get it.

Let's hope Santa is listening as you all sing along with me to the tune of that old standard. Sing loud and sing strong my peeps, because we're asking for a lot here, and Santa is prone to hearing dysfunction at this time of year, so sing long … and sing stridengly.

Oh and just for spits and giggles, for those of you not into hockey … those of you with other pressing things on your collective noggins - like the sweater-induced void in Ottawa – this song can also be sung for Prime Minister Stephen Harper, everyone's favorite humbug.

It goes like this:

"All I want for Christmas is a working brain … a working brain, a working brain! Gee if I could only have a working brain, Then I could be a moral and fully functioning member of society!"

Okay so the second part needs some work. The important part here is we've started the Santa ball rolling.

I maintain a working relationship with the jolly man and I Twittered ol' Santa at the North Pole.

He assures me that he is marginally impressed by the song's plaintive entreaties, but remains uncertain about the whole premise.

He emailed me back with the following: "Dear Terrance, Received with delight your twitter. The elves are still rolling around the floor in spasmodic piques of laughter … our 'Twitter Me Elmo' line has been set back three days … I appreciate your optimism … but as an old Kenyan savant once wrote: 'seldom does that leopard lose its spot.' And alas though I admire your optimism, I am now reduced to picking up my elves and returning them to the line … all the best … oh, and on Harper, on Sean, on hockey, on parliament, on Doner, on Blitzen, on working, on brain? … Don't hold your breath. Rudolph says hey."

Oh, now you're probably wondering what Sean and Stevie can expect for Christmas, now that the working brain thing has been all but ruled out.

I'll give you the skinny.

For Mr. Avery a one way ticket to the Kontinental League in glorious Russia. He will play on a third line and will drive the Zamboni betwixt periods.

For our Stevie Wonder.

A lovely blue cashmere sweater … wrapped around four pieces of coal. Alas unwearable. Just like Stephen Harper's stunningly shopworn and stilted leadership.

Unwashed, unwanted and untenable.

Merry Christmas to all … and to all a good night.■

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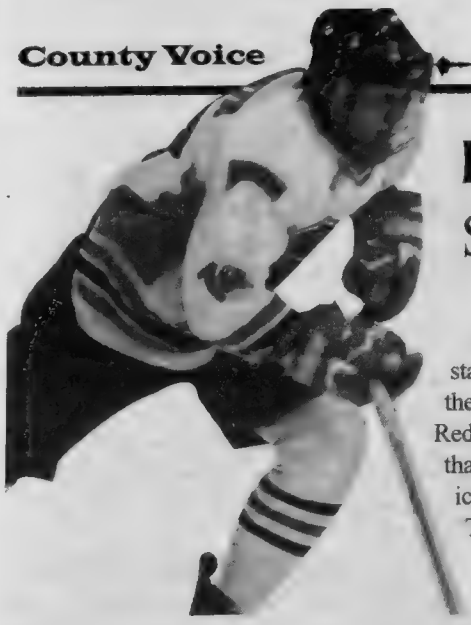

Red Hawks Lose Two after Firecracker 3-0 Start to Season

St. Peters capitalizes on mistakes to drop Hawks

Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor

After a scorching start to their season, the Haliburton High Red Hawks ran into that fabled and finicky brick wall.

The Hawks began their 2008-09 campaign with a pretty nice run, winning the first three games of the season by some handy margins. The Hawks piled up wins versus Thomas A Stewart, Fenelon Falls and Kenner to start their season.

They ran their record to 3-0 utilizing a nice blend of forecheck, puck control and some solid play at the blue line. Two stellar stalwarts between the pipes, Alex Monk-Cray and Paddy Manuge, who are sharing goaltending duties this season, helped feed some early season momentum. Special teams, quick up-ice tilts and a prowling head's up style added a nice phalanx of hustle to the total mix.

That rollicking bus tour ground to a halt last Tuesday (Dec. 2) in Peterborough with the Hawks first setback of the season, a 5-3 loss to the wild, wily and ever-perplexing Holy Cross Crusaders.

And on Monday night, the Red Hawks fell 5-2 at the Dysart Emporium to the visiting St. Peters Saints, a team that matches up nicely against the Hawks.

Monday's loss came to a St Peters team that brings a nice blend of power, finesse and pop to the table.

In fact, the Hawks and Saints match up quite nicely, carbon copy units that both concentrate on tight positional play, solid defense and a quick hitting up-ice, headman style.

And so while the outcome may have been a little disappointing for the home town faithful, no one in attendance could deny that this was a nifty little up-tempo contest with a plethora of scoring chances on both sides of the center stripe. And nary a penalty marred the delicious and prolonged back and forth flow, especially in the first two frames.

In short: a nice way to while away a few hours on a Monday night.

The teams finished the first period tied at one, but a couple of errant passes proved costly in the second as the Saints' forwards capitalized on a few Hawk miscues to score three quick unanswered goals, pushing their lead to a seemingly insurmountable 4-1 margin by the midway point of the second frame.

However, the quick and deadly Ashton Haley broke in all alone on right wing and snapped a wired-wrister just a step past the blue line to beat the Saints goaltender on the short side at 6:18 of the second. It provided the fans and the Hawks with a short pop of adrenalin, but the Saints closed ranks and returned to their cocooning trapping zone.The Hawks had a few more chances, but St Peter's effectively shut the door with a thud when Ryan Flamminio scored with just 48 seconds remaining in the middle frame. That late goal put a solid bold font imprimatur on the contest and the three-goal margin allowed the Saints to play a kitty bar the door suffocating style for the remainder of the game.

The Saints did make it exciting toward the end of the contest, taking two penalties on the same shift with 3 minutes remaining in the third. St Pete's penalty killing team did a superb job however of killing that two man Hawks' power play and held Hal High to just three shots on goal in the two minute, two man deficit situation.

Coach Ron Yake was philosophical about the loss in the corridor after the game. And he, and co-coach Gary Brohman even managed a smile, or two.

"St Peters is a top ranked Triple A school and I think we played pretty well against them tonight," said Yake. "We hung in, but we made some mistakes and you can't do that against a team like this. They have a very good team."

The first part of the statement is important. The hockey league that the Hawks and several other Double A schools play in is made up of Triple A and Double A schools. The teams all play an interlocking schedule, but for the purposes of Kawartha standings, Double A schools are not penalized for losses against Triple A teams.

Thus, last Monday's game was a de facto exhibition contest, and the loss does not affect the Red Hawks standings in the Double A scenario.

It may sound confusing, but suffice to say that in a rural milieu, in order to forestall a smaller stilted schedule and a lot of repeat games against the same opponents, the schools have chosen to band together in a single unit.

It's a little confusing at cursory glance, but it does serve a purpose, allowing teams to visit a broader range of competition in seasonal action.

These games against larger schools do serve a viable purpose however, and Yake is hoping that this young Red Hawk team will take something away from this latest loss.

"We got caught three times and it cost us each time," said Yake. "The interesting thing was that we never stopped skating and never stopped pressing even though we were down 5-2. We played them even in the third period and we can learn something from that."

He added that the loss to arch-nemesis Holy Cross last Tuesday (Dec 1) provided some insight into what might ultimately form a key Double A playoff match up.

"That game could just have easily been 4-4 after regulation, but we gave up a goal and we ended up losing 5-3 … but it was a close game," said Yake.

The skinny? The Red Hawks are a young team and they're playing against some Triple A clubs who have access to a larger pool of grade 12 players.

What is undeniable, and what was borne out on the ice last Monday is that this is also a team, that despite losing, played with power, precision and pop. And that goes to coaching. The difference between the Red Hawk team that lost last Monday to St. Peters Saints and the team that won 6-1 against Kenner was palpable, even from the stands.

No comparison. This Red Hawk team despite the two recent losses is a squad that shows marked improvement in every facet of their game. The passes are crisp, the defensive zone play is solid and the forwards are doing what well-coached forwards do; playing good, two-way, head's up hockey and seeing the ice.

Yake is hoping to carry that learning curve to Oshawa this week in a huge 36-team tourney taking place at the Iroquois Park ice complex on Thursday and Friday (Dec 11 and 12).

"We'll get a chance to see some good competition and we'll play a lot of games," said Yake. The Hawks will play a round robin in their four team division starting Thursday. Standings after that round robin revue will determine who they'll be playing on Friday.

Scoring for the Hawks in that Holy Cross Crusader loss last Tuesday were Mark Vasey, Carson Roberts, and D.J. Howorko.

On Monday, Keaton Gadway scored the first goal of the game for the Hawks. Brett and Brandon Yake, Scott Griffith and Vasey all added helpers in the 5-2 loss. Kyle Sullivan scored twice for the Saints.

Hawks were without the services of Ian Bottum and Kevin Nelson who were away playing with their Triple A Wolves club. Yake said that such conflicts occur occasionally in the course of the season.

Correction: My chronic dyslexia in a game report last week led to a psycho-kinetic breakdown and unfortunately caused me to interpret TAS in the schedule as STA. The Hawks did not defeat St Thomas Aquinas last week. They defeated Thomas A Stewart.

M.B.S.F.T.C. Acronyms, aren't they lovely? M.B.S.F.T.C.? (My Bad Sorry For The Confusion) TG (Terrance Gavan) President of the S.F.T.A.O.A.A.(Society for the Abolition of Annoying Acronyms).■

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Sixth Annual Silver Stick in Haliburton Last Weekend

Tourney Continues in Minden this Weekend

The past weekend the Highland Storm Minor Hockey Association hosted its 6th annual Silverstick Regional Hockey Tournament for Atom & Peewee Additional Entry teams. There were teams from Lincoln County, Napanee, Port Perry, Parry Sound, Tweed, Belleville, Campbellford, Glanbrook, Stirling, St.Catharines and of course our own Highland Storm teams. Our Storm Atom AE team made it to the Semi-Finals on Sunday but lost to a strong Napanee Team 5-1. Our Peewee AE team also reached the Semis and lost in OT to Napanee 2-1.

Belleville went on to win the Atom group and St. Catharines won the Peewee Division. The Storm Atom team would like to thank the four Novice players who came up & helped out- Josh Bellefleur, Josh Boice, Nolan Flood & Owen Smith. The Tourney was a huge success!

This weekend the Silver stick Bantam & Midget teams play in Minden & Haliburton on Saturday and the Championships are in Minden on Sunday. Come on out and watch some fun Minor Hockey! ■

Sir Sams's Opens at Record Setting Pace

Skier Visits up 15 Percent from Last Year

A lot of changes at Sir Sam's Ski Area.

New Ski School Director, new rails, refurbished lifts, a Banana upgrade, an amped up terrain park, and a second stage add-on to the T-Bar all bode well for Sir Sam's as it moves into the 2008-2009 season.

Last Saturday and Sunday Sir Sam's welcomed alpine skiers to its friendly confines. Opening day and fresh tracks beckoned and they came in droves.

"It was just a great weekend for skiers," said Chris Bishop, who heads up corporate initiatives, ticket sales and operations for the ski area.

"We were up by about 15 percent over last year's numbers," added Bishop.

That's significant considering that they only had two lifts and one side of the hill open.

Bishop said that next weekend the back side which encompasses, Dingle Dangle, Crash and Carry and Birdwatcher will be open as well. "We intend to have both sides open and running next weekend, but we were certainly pleased with the turnout last weekend," said Bishop.

He added that snowmaking is continuing on into this week, but added that man made blowing operations, with the help of a friendly weather forecast, have been proceeding apace and ahead of schedule.

"We may have to blow a bit more snow on Dingle Dangle and Lovers Lane into next weekend," said Bishop.

The biggest change to the hill occurred on the kid-friendly and singularly popular Banana trail. Staff widened the trail this year in order to encompass the input of some new rails. Banana will be the run of choice for the young and young at heart during the 2008-09 season.

"The rails will be going in on Banana and we'll also be holding our Boarder and Skier Cross Events there," said Bishop.

On Saturday Jan 17th Sir Sam's will host the first CFSA Skier Cross Race of the season. The following day on Sunday the 18th they'll host the first A.O.S Boarder Cross Race of the season.

Banana, which used to be a narrow trail with several strategically placed kickers and jumps has been widened to accommodate the addition of the Terrain Park. In addition, a second stop and loading point for the existing T-Bar has been added to allow Terrain Park riders to join the T-Bar halfway up the trail. This will reduce skier and boarder traffic on the Bunny Hill, which is serviced by a handle tow. In previous years, freestyle riders from Banana had to negotiate a bunch up of ski classes and novice skiers in order to reach the bottom of the T-Bar.

The second stage lift zone on the T-Bar will now allow riders to board the lift at the bottom of the Rail Park half-way up the T-Bar lift.

A stop button and flattened loading zone has been added to the T-Bar riding lane and Bishop said that it will expand options for riders who like to ride the rails.

Returning, of course, for it's zillionth successful and popular season will be the annual Sir Sam's Challenge race.

The Challenge will start on Sunday January 10th and run until February 28.

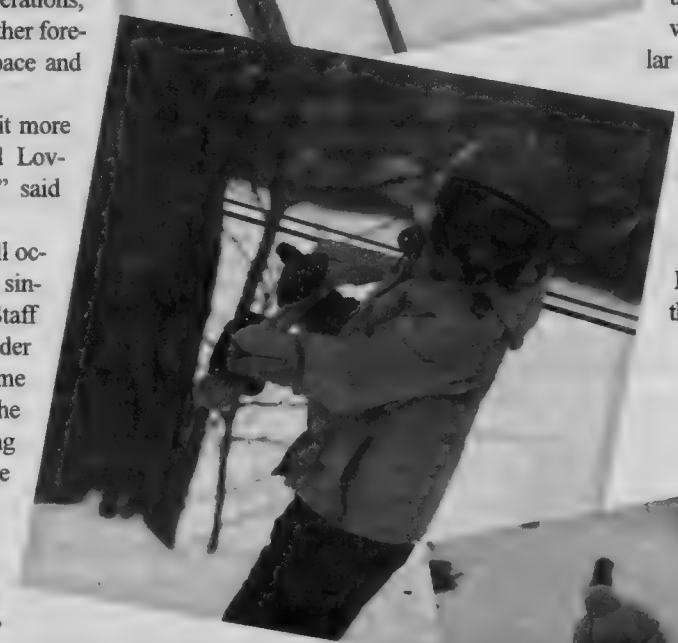
Men's Day is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 20 and Ladies Day is penciled in for Friday Feb. 27th. Apres Ski and Dance will be held on Saturday, Jan. 31.

Bishop added that this year, for the first time in its forty plus year history Sir Sam's will be opening its lifts for summer scenic riding. The lodge will be open with food distribution, a kawartha dairy ice cream bar and a variety of other craft friendly kiosks.

Mountain biking trails have also been cut and downhill bike riders will be able to purchase lift passes enabling them to ferry their mountain bikes up the slope for the ride down some beginner or advanced terrain.

For now Bishop said that Sir Sam's will be open weekends until Saturday, December 20th when the hill will open for regular season hours.

The ski area will be open every day of the Christmas Break excepting Dec. 25. Regular season hours are Wednesday through Sunday and the resort will be open every day during March break from March 14th through March 22nd.■



Duchene and Hodgson Headed for National Junior Camp

Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor

It's a feel good time for the Brampton Battalion.

Their two top scorers, Cody Hodgson and Matthew Duchene, have been invited to partake of the grail. Both players have been invited to the National Junior selection camp slated for Ottawa on December 12, 13, and 14.

Haliburton cottager Hodgson and Haliburton resident Duchene will board a plane today. The plane will take them from Pearson hub to Ottawa. It's a short hop. A peanut pack and soft drink flight.

For both, it's a trip that forms the culmination of a long, long journey. From meager first steps onto the ice surface of the Dysart et al Arena, the two have followed separate but inextricably integrated paths. They moved through the ranks, both emerging as singular talents.

Their imprimatur clear, their paths lit by that undeniable spark. The gift bestowed, but for both the gift was sustained and fine-tuned by a manic and irrepressible dedication to the craft. Gym, dryland, skate and bench. Many games, untold hours spent shooting, practicing, skating, and honing skills.

Both started their career in the Highlands. Both have moved through the ranks. Both were first round number one selections of the Brampton Battalion. Both have experienced unheard of success in their chosen field of endeavor. Both are academically sound. Both are proven leaders.

Last year, Hodgson, the elder, was selected tenth by Vancouver Canucks in the NHL entry draft. This year Duchene, the younger (by a year), is ranked third by the NHL's scouting combine.

Both have represented Canada and won gold as members of the same under-18 national squad that won it all in Kazan, Russia last spring.

Tellingly, with all that success, both remain goal oriented and both still harbor a dream.

The dream? To win a gold medal with that most prepossessing of units, the Canadian National Junior team.

Both are close to seeing that dream fulfilled. They move to Ottawa this week joining a 38-man roster of Junior Team wannabees. A selection camp roster that must and will be whittled to just 22 by close of business on Sunday, December 14.

Three days. Only three. Three days to show a combine of jurists, coaches and hockey purists that they belong.

These are heady days. Heady, because for 22 players this presages a moment in heaven. A chance to play on a national stage in one of the most prestigious tournaments in hockey.

Reached late Monday night from his home, Hodgson said he was cautiously optimistic about his chances. "I'm really looking forward to the camp, it's a great opportunity and it's an honour just to be asked," said Hodgson. "I've been at camps like this before and I'll try to find a comfort level," said Hodgson. "I'm not taking this for granted, and of course it would be a real honour to play for this team."

And while no player has a lock on a spot, it would be hard to ignore Hodgson's recent production levels with the Battalion, a spate of scoring that has quite literally lifted Brampton to the pinnacle of OHL's elite teams.

Hodgson's third goal of the game, 55 seconds into overtime, lifted the Brampton Battalion to a 5-4 victory last Sunday over the Mississauga St. Michael's Majors. The Troop are 21-8-1 for the season and hold down second place overall in the OHL's Eastern Conference. Hodgson scored his fifth game-winning goal of the season, and is tied for the league lead with Tony Romano of the Peterborough Petes.

Typically, Hodgson, who is also the Batallion captain downplayed his role, preferring instead to lay off some of that production to his linemates.

"I've been very fortunate to be playing on a line with Thomas Stajan and Jason Dale," said Hodgson. He added that he's also very happy to be traveling to camp with his good friend Duchene. "It's great to be going with Matt, and I'm hoping that we both have a good camp," said Hodgson.

Duchene had a goal in that St Mike's game as well, important, because it was his first action since a shoulder injury sidelined him for six games.

Hodgson is sixth overall in OHL scoring with 20 goals and 22 assists in 23 games. Duchene is currently 12th in the OHL points brigade with 13 goals and 21 assists in 24 games.

Duchene is equally pumped about his selection to the camp and was happy to be able to return for one final game before the junior training camp. "I'm not quite 100 percent, and it hurt a few times during the game, but the pain went away," said Duchene, who also credits Troop trainer Binne Brouwer with aiding in his recovery. "Binne's done a great job helping my rehab," said Duchene via the team's website. "Getting that game was so important for me, because it's easy to get out of game shape and your timing's off. I didn't even practice with the guys before this."

Reached Monday afternoon from his Brampton billet, Duchene said he is confident going into the camp. He practiced with the Battalion Tuesday and Wednesday before boarding the plane this morning for Ottawa and is pretty sure that his shoulder will sustain him through the arduous training camp which will include three Red versus White tilts over weekend.

"I know I'm one of the younger players on the team, but that doesn't mean that I'm not confident," said Duchene. "Everybody involved, including Pat Quinn has seen me play and they know what I bring to a team. My attitude going in is always the same: just go out and play your game."

Duchene said that before undergoing that six game stretch on injury reserve, he was in the top ten in OHL scoring and he added that the opportunity to play that last game versus St. Mike's was very important to his mental prep.

"It gave me a chance to test the shoulder and it's about 90 percent right now, so I'm happy," said Duchene. Duchene also mentioned a pretty poignant moment just after his injury. He was icing his shoulder in the trainer's room and the national junior team's chief scout Al Murray sought him out. And then delivered him to Pat Quinn who was also in attendance at the game.

Both Quinn and Murray offered solace and a riveting piece of advice. Advice he followed.

"It was really nice," said Duchene. "They came and found me and they told me not to rush back, to get some rest."

Nice is the right word. Both Quinn and Murray showed savvy. They told Duchene, a young player, to show due diligence and get the required treatment. The message conveyed? Don't worry, we've seen all we need to see. They didn't say "you're on the camp roster," but they conveyed as much. Nice.

It shows us something about this current management team.

It shows that they care, and it demonstrates that they're for the players.

Duchene said that once the picks are made Sunday, the team would be together until the tournament ends with the gold medal wrapper on January 5.

You can bet the Arctic Cat that both Cody Hodgson and Matt Duchene packed for a month, not a weekend.

Minden River Kings on Three Game Streak

River Kings coach Brooks Robinson is now 3-0 since replacing former head coach Mike Jeschke three weeks ago.

The Kings defeated Richmond Hill 7-4 last Sunday at the SG Nesbitt Barn, pushing their season record to 9-15-1, good for sixth place in the Greater Metro Hockey League's tough north division.

The win comes on the heels of yet another huge trade, a blockbuster four-for-one swap that saw Kings captain Toby Kathan traded to Oro Medonte 77s for Steven Garcia, Cody McKinnon, Brendan O'Brien and Matt Duncan.

The trade paid dividends last Sunday as both Garcia and McKinnon contributed goals in the victory over the Lightening Rams. "The new guys played really well," said Robinson, who is happy with the massive infusion of bodies into the mix. Kathan will be missed, but it's probably a worthy deal.

The deal, struck by GM Dan Garneau will stand the Kings in good stead as things wind into the second half. It will also provide the Kings with some breathing space on line changes and will bolster practice sessions.

Former assistant captain and the Kings top scorer Brett Meyers who scored a pair in the game last Sunday was elevated to captain. Devin Hunter, who has been a solid and unflinching presence in the Kings line up this season was promoted to assistant captain.

"Thomas Falardeau, Hunter and Jeff Beale all contributed single tallies in Sunday's win.

Andrew Selbie, who has been solid between the pipes since taking over for the departed Rob Sutherland – traded to Elliot Lake on November 30th – got the win. Selbie is backed up by Robert Randles and Robinson added that the Kings would probably have a third goaltender in the fold by December 10th.

"It's all coming together right now," said Robinson, who is also pretty chuffed about the three game streak. "It's all good, and I'm especially happy for the guys who have been waiting a long time for this."

Robinson said there are still a few wrinkles to be ironed. The team is currently practicing at 10 pm because of a lack of available ice time and practice slots. "We're hoping that will change after Christmas, because it's pretty hard right now on guys who are going to school."

He added that he's still looking for an assistant coach to help him out. Last Sunday he enlisted the services of his son-in-law Dan Kennedy behind the bench. Kennedy lives in Oshawa, so he can't commit to a practice schedule, but Robinson said he certainly helped out with bench management on Sunday evening.

"He ran the defense and he did a great job," said Robinson. Kennedy has some OHL experience and Robinson said he was happy to have the help behind the bench.

The influx of players is also putting pressure on the billet situation and Robinson said that any families interested in billeting a player should phone him directly. He added that anyone who might be interested in helping out with coaching and game management should also contact him at personally at 286-3230.

The River Kings face the Nipissing Alouettes at the Barn this coming Sunday, Dec. 14th. Game time is 6 pm and Robinson said that it is a crucial game. The Alouettes are in third place in the GMHL's North Division and bring an imposing 17-8-1 record to Minden.

"This will be a tough game and a test for us," said Robinson.

At the same time he said that the veterans and the incoming players are all feeling something special this week, the result of this sudden surge and a three game win streak. He said that the Kings are fully primed for the game.

"They've (Nipissing) got a great team and it's going to be a battle," said Robinson.

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HHHS MUSIC STUDENTS
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A Christmas Concert
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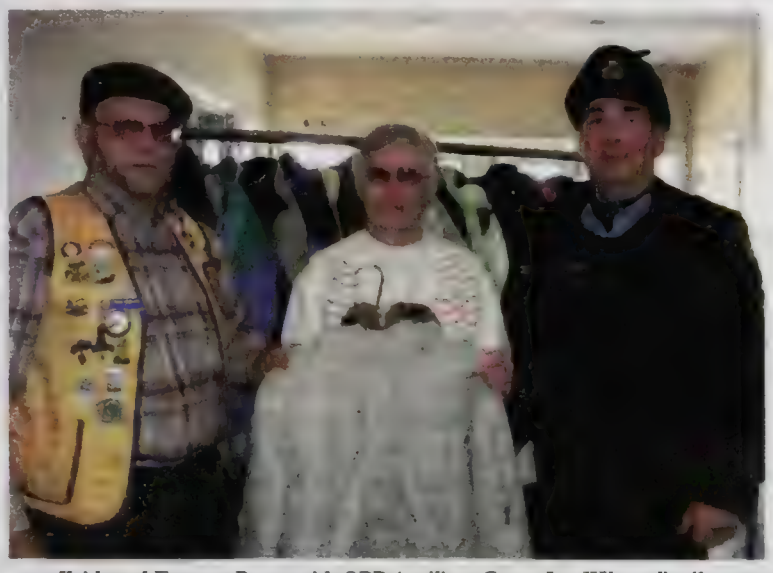
Everyone is welcome to attend!
Guitar Class, Grade 9 Class and the Red Hawk Jazz Ensemble
Admission by donation at the door.

Throughout Haliburton County, the spirit of giving is alive and well.

That's because people from various walks of life in the community are stepping up and taking action to make this Christmas a better one for those less fortunate. Whether they were organizing annual food and toy drives or coming up with innovative ways of fund-raising, the County has been buzzing with generosity.

Below are just a couple examples of the different initiatives that were or are still going on in the area.



Keith and Frances Burns with OPP Auxiliary Const. Ian Wilson distributing coats at the Haliburton United Church.

Coats for Kids Program

Frances and Keith Burns know exactly why it's better to give than to receive.

It was five years ago that the two locals decided to launch their 'Coats for Kids' program which delivers coats to families in Haliburton County who are in need during the winter season.

The couple was inspired to start the initiative after seeing a similar program being run in Peterborough by the United Way. What also got them to spring into action was some of the stuff they saw abandoned at local area garbage dump sites.

"You see good clothes there," said Frances. "It's just amazing what some people throw out."

This year's coat drive started in the County around Thanksgiving after letters were sent home with kids at local schools encouraging parents to donate their unwanted coats. The donations were dropped off at J.D. Hodgson Elementary School, Stuart Baker Elementary School, Archie Stouffer Elementary School, Foodland in Haliburton and Dollo's IGA in Minden.

This year, the Haliburton and District Lions Club, local OPP Auxiliary officers and the Haliburton Kinsmen Club assisted with the drive.

"They helped gather coats from the different areas and Lindsay Cleaners picked them up and cleaned them free of charge," added Frances.

Close to 300 coats were collected, many of which were distributed to families last Saturday at the Haliburton Highlands OPP Detachment and the Haliburton United Church. There was also a small selection of mitts and toques available.

In an interview with The Voice this past Monday, Frances said that she was pleased with the success of this year's drive.

"We did very well. In Minden there were only about 25 coats left and in Haliburton we got rid of over half of the 100 coats we had," she said.

The leftover coats from the drive will be delivered to the outreach centre in Wilberforce.

Frances and her husband plan to continue on helping keep kids and their families warm in the winter.

"It makes us feel good when we're able to help people out," said Frances.

The couple would like to thank the Haliburton Kinsmen Club and the auxiliary officers for their support of the program.

"We couldn't have managed this year without their help," added Frances.

What are these people doing?
Merry Christmas to all our friends, family, neighbours and customers!
All the best for a safe, healthy and prosperous 2009!
Thanks for your patronage!
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Dave and Allison are using the County Voice to send out their Holiday Greetings as they know they will reach over 10,000 readers in Haliburton County and beyond! It is much faster, easier and economical than trying to send cards and they'll reach giant numbers of people. You can too! We will help you customize your message this Holiday Season. Call today to place yours. We'll take care of you and your best wishes. You can relax and get ready for the holidays!
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13th Annual HCHBA Annual Christmas Food and Toy Drive

It was 13 years ago that Aggie Tose, Executive Officer of the Haliburton County Home Builders Association (HCHBA) decided to launch the annual drive that covers the entire County.

"When I started I got a lot of the members of the HCHBA on board," explained Tose. "I said that we needed to do our part at this time of the year."

Tose recognized that there were families in need in the County, especially during the winter months.

"I knew of one family that was going through a hard time. For some, it's hard to admit that they can't do it on their own and they need help."

In the beginning, the drive proved to be quite a challenge to put together.

"There were a lot of hurdles. We didn't have support at that time in advertising so we had to pay for everything. But as of this year, we didn't have to spend anything."

Last year in Haliburton alone, over $33,000 in food was put into baskets that was distributed through the local food banks. From collections gathered in Haliburton, Cardiff and Wilberforce, a total of 194 families and individuals received food and toys.

Tose expects those numbers will be even higher this year.

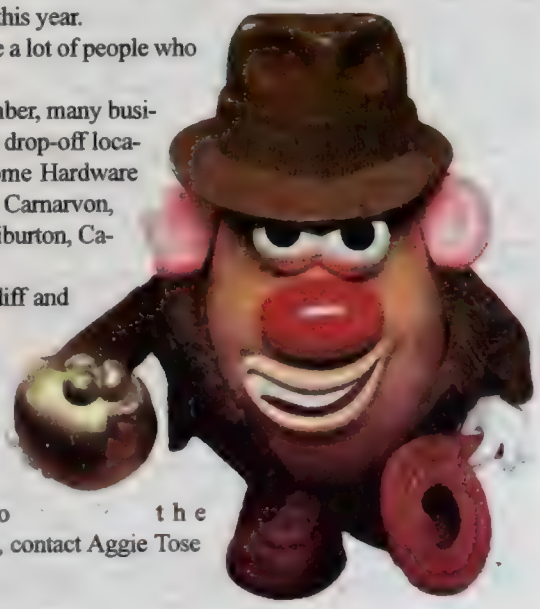
"We'll exceed that this year," she says. "There are a lot of people who have been getting involved."

Since the drive started at the beginning of November, many businesses have jumped on board. Some of the current drop-off locations for items include the LCBO in Minden, Home Hardware in Minden, the Trails and Tours Network office in Carnarvon, Cordell Carpet in Haliburton, Curry Motors in Haliburton, Canoe FM, Moose FM and the Haliburton Echo.

Groups in places like Dorset, Wilberforce, Cardiff and Bancroft have also been collecting donations.

This past Monday, Haliburton 4C's volunteers began sorting and wrapping gifts at the St. Anthony of Padua Church in Haliburton. Soon in Minden, volunteers will spend a day at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena to do the same.

To find out how you can still contribute to the HCHBA's Annual Christmas Food and Toy Drive, contact Aggie Tose at 705 457-2629. ■



ISAAC ASIMOV'S SUPER QUIZ

Take this Isaac Asimov's Super Quiz to a Ph.D. Score 1 point for each correct answer on the Freshman Level, 2 points on the Graduate Level and 3 points on the Ph.D. Level.

Subject: POTPOURRI
(e.g., What nationality was El Cid? Answer: Spanish.)

FRESHMAN LEVEL
1. Who played the title role in "Funny Girl"?
Answer_____
2. In what European country is the Black Forest?
Answer_____
3. What reggae star died in 1981?
Answer_____

GRADUATE LEVEL
4. Who directed "Psycho"?
Answer_____
5. Who married Anthony Armstrong-Jones in 1960?
Answer_____
6. What does ABS mean in the car industry?
Answer_____

PH.D. LEVEL
7. What is the opposite of the Orient?
Answer_____
8. What is Egypt's major seaport?
Answer_____
9. Which U.S. state is named after King George II?
Answer_____

ANSWERS: 1. Barbra Streisand. 2. Germany. 3. Bob Marley. 4. Alfred Hitchcock. 5. Princess Margaret. 6. Anti-lock braking system. 7. The Occident. 8. Alexandria. 9. Georgia.

SCORING:
18 points — congratulations, doctor; 15 to 17 points — honors graduate; 10 to 14 points — you're plenty smart, but no grind; 4 to 9 points — you really should hit the books harder; 1 point to 3 points — enroll in remedial courses immediately; 0 points — who reads the questions to you?

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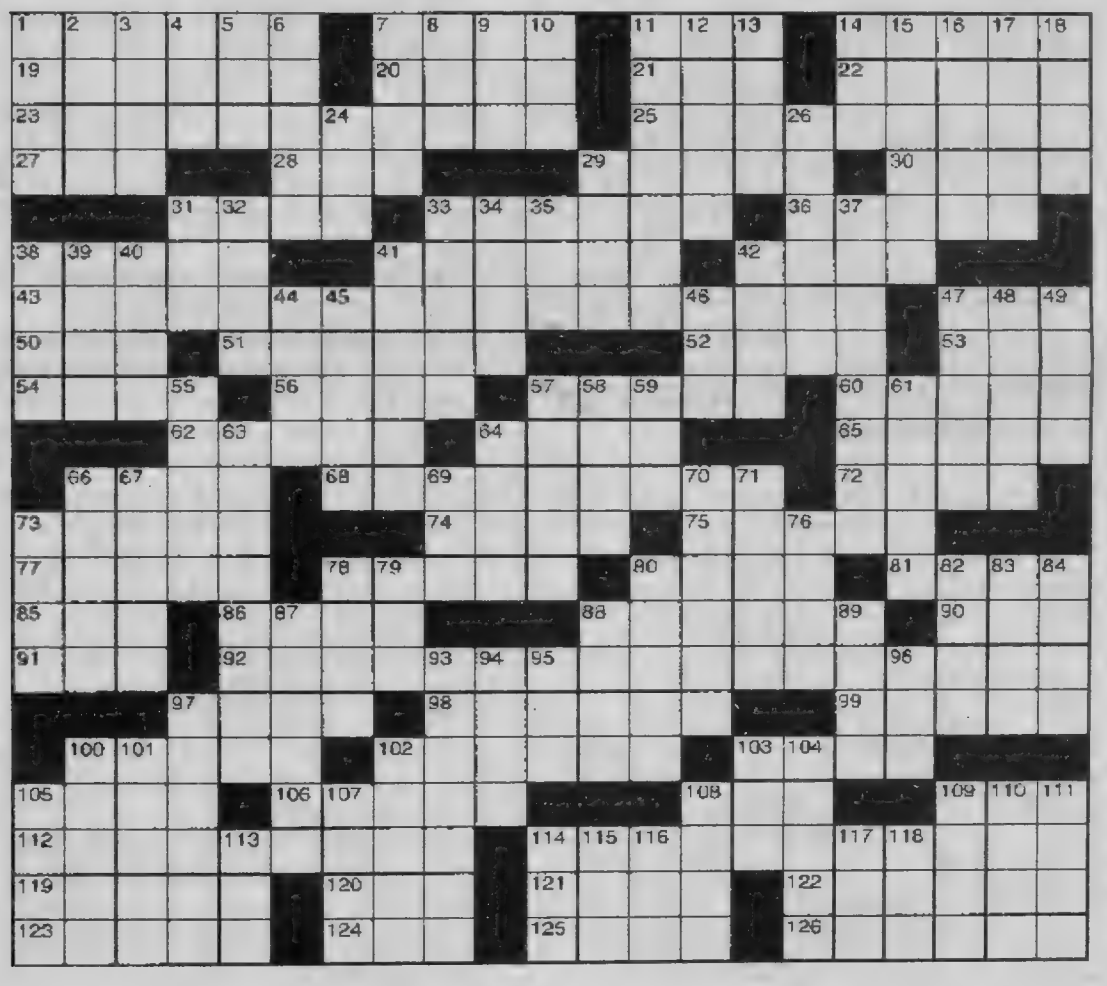
Super Crossword — TIMBER LINE

ACROSS
1 '84 Daryl Hannah film
7 Belfry sound
11 Poetic monogram
14 Little rascal
19 Bunch of ballplayers
20 Fairy-tale fiend
21 Spring mo.
22 Forbidden
23 Start of a remark by 114 Across
25 Teddy-bear president
27 Tut's relative
28 Ganesh or Hanuman
29 That's the spirit
30 Building wings
31 Level
33 Actress Welch
36 With 51 Across, "Wuthering Heights" author
38 Face lift?
41 Anchored
42 Hot spot?
43 Part 2 of remark
47 Aries animal
50 Important numero
51 See 36 Across
52 "— look at me!"
53 Distinctive period
54 Irving character
56 Hotels
57 Prepare the Parmesan
60 Toil
62 Dwelling
64 Trim a photo
65 Rotund
66 Vittle statistics?
68 He's got plans for you
72 Skilled
73 Pick-me-up
74 Sheet of stamps
75 Big name in kids' music
77 TV's "Starsky and —"
78 Get on
80 Cougar
81 Viscount's superior
85 Put into service
86 Partially open
88 "Summer —" ('72 hit)
90 Mauna —
91 Augsburg article
92 End of remark
97 Wise guy?
98 Bother
99 Like Hawaiian shirts
100 Wails
102 Vicar's assistant
103 Bend
105 Saucy
106 It gets squirreled away
108 Beastly place?
109 Jacket info
112 Gardener's friend
114 Speaker of remark
119 "— Gay"
120 Khan opener?
121 Kind of roast
122 He's left holding the bag
123 Enticed
124 Pewter base
125 Cunning
126 Layers

DOWN
1 Blind part
2 Body-builder's pride
3 Need
4 Give it — (try)
5 Big —, CA
6 Reduce a risk
7 Little lake
8 "The — and I" ('47 film)
9 Word with folk or fine
10 Tenor Slezak
11 Durham denizen
12 Bobbin
13 Cupid, in Corinth
14 Sault — Marie, MI
15 Collapse
16 Ring — (seem familiar)
17 Aquarium fish
18 Saucepans
24 Charged atom
26 Witty Wright
29 Spiritual guide
31 Lilly of pharmaceuticals
32 Do or die?
33 Takes a break
34 Exercise aftermath
35 Status —
37 Diner fare
38 Self-important
39 Blabby bird
40 Borodin's "Prince —"
41 Sermon subject
42 Woodwind instrument
44 The Furies, e.g.
45 Toyota competitor
46 Banned pesticide
47 Defy a dictator
48 Faced the day
49 Stallion's sweetheart
55 Lose control
57 Pulverize
58 Learning method
59 Mimic
61 Activist Hoffman
63 15th president
64 Burn a bit
66 Animal that roared?
67 Log
69 Pocket protector?
70 Altar vessels
71 He keeps lions in line
73 Heavy blow
76 Disconcert
78 Bete noire
79 Nev. neighbor
80 Novel language?
82 Baseball family name
83 Crucifix
84 Tramp's tootsie
87 Peaceful pursuit?
88 Gravy vessel
89 Finish the lawn
93 "The Avengers" actress
94 Knitter's need
95 Monk's title
96 Wicked stuff?
97 Pay up
100 Reeves of "The Matrix"
101 Mistake
102 It's walked at Windsor
103 Watch pocket
104 Crochet units
105 Rind
107 Winter wear
108 Off-the-wall
109 — carotene
110 "Players" actor
111 Gumbo veggie
113 Possessed
114 North Pole worker
115 Milne creature
116 Cowboy Tom
117 Bon — (witticism)
118 "I'm freezing!"



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Dear Abby
by Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: I am a 33-year-old man who has never been in a serious relationship until now. I have been seeing "Stephie" for eight months and think I may be in love with her. I have successfully managed to evade Stephie's questions about my past and got away with it until recently. She keeps asking me about the scars on my body. (I was physically abused by my parents when I was a child.) Regrettably, I lied to her about the nature of the scars. Stephie wants to be married and start a family, and so do I. She wants her kids to have a great dad, and I think I can be a very good parent. I would never do to my kids what was done to me. On the one hand, I want an open, honest relationship with her. On the other, I'm afraid if I tell her the truth she will leave me, and I'll spiral into another five-year depression I may not be able to escape from. My parents are both dead now, so I could continue to lie without Stephie ever knowing. But I get the feeling she doesn't entirely believe what I've been telling her. What should I do? – SURVIVOR IN OHIO

DEAR SURVIVOR: Because you are discussing a future together, it's time to level with Stephie about everything. That you would not want to discuss this painful subject at the beginning of a relationship is understandable. But please do not continue the deception. You should also explain to Stephie about your period of clinical depression. If she's going to marry you, she has a right to know your medical history. Yes, telling her may be risky. However, if she loves you, she will accept you just the way you are. And if she isn't up to the challenge, it's better to find out now before becoming any more involved. P.S. If you feel that a breakup could trigger another round of depression, it is important that you talk to a psychotherapist NOW. The abuse you suffered in childhood may have left emotional scars as lasting as the physical ones, but with therapy you may be able to heal.

DEAR ABBY: I'm not sure how to react to something a friend of mine recently told me. We have known "Lois" and her husband for more than 30 years. They no longer live in this city, but visit occasionally. When they do, we always invite them to stay in our home.On their last visit, Lois was talking about her only child, "Deidre," whom I have always liked. Lois, out of the blue, began chuckling and then told me that Deidre does a good imitation of me. Lois sat there giggling for a few minutes, then said that Deidre sounded almost as much like me as I do. I made no comment. Frankly, I was taken aback that someone would do an imitation of me. I got the impression that Deidre has been doing my "act" for a while, and I found it disturbing. My husband says it's a form of flattery, but I think it's demeaning. I also think impersonating someone for the amusement of others -- especially if the person is not around -- is rude. What do you think? -- JOKE'S ON ME IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR J.O.M.: I think you should have asked your friend Lois to clarify her remark at the time she made it. But because you didn't, bring it up the next time you talk to her and let her explain what was so funny. Personally, I think such imitations are often a form of ridicule and are unkind.

County of Haliburton Holiday Closure

The County of Haliburton Administration Building will close on **Wednesday, December 24, 2008 at 12:30 p.m.** and will re-open for regular business on **Monday, January 5, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.** If you wish to leave a message for one of our staff, please call 705-286-1333 and follow the voice mail instructions. Alternatively, visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca to obtain a list of contact information.

The County Roads Department has a 24 hour call answer service (705-286-1762) should you require immediate assistance.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

What's Up Doc? by Carol Sanio D.V.M.
From the Minden Animal Hospital

Quick guide to first aid for your pet

Are you prepared for an emergency with your pet. Do you know what to do if your pet has a seizure, laceration, fracture, bleeding, vomiting or diarrhea. Do you know how to tell if it is urgent, if you should call your veterinarian, or what to do before you get to the hospital? If not, read on…..

First thing you must do when your pet is sick or injured is stay calm, check the time, take a big breath and think clearly. Some things are easy for you to call urgent like a trauma or a bleeding wound, but others are more difficult to determine if urgent. If your dog has been hit by a car, has a face full of porcupine quills or a wound requiring suturing, you would call the emergency veterinarian on call. If your dog vomited and had diarrhea once or seizured do you call?

Animals hit by a car often take off running even with fractures and major injuries. They are being propelled by adrenaline. If your animal has been hit, check the road before running to help, you need to be sure of your own safety as well. Be careful not to be bitten as pain on moving an injured animal may make them bite even people they know and love. A towel or blanket over the head or a home made muzzle is often wise before moving. Transporting hurt animals is best done on a board or in a blanket, moving the head, neck and back as little as possible.

After a quick assessment, call your veterinarian so that they know when you will be arriving and the extent of the injuries if known.

Excessive bleeding can be controlled with pressure and cold. Elevate the bleeding part above the heart if possible. Wrap a laceration if you have bandage material or an extra shirt handy. Arterial bleeds are urgent and you will see blood spurting in time with the beat of the heart. Internal bleeding is not always so obvious. You may notice difficulty breathing or the abdomen looking full or distended. The animals gums may also appear pale. These require veterinary attention as quickly as possible. If you can actually see the abdomen filling, there is a very large bleed and the prognosis is grave.

Seizuring is another traumatic experience for owners of cats and dogs. It is frightening to watch. If your pet is seizuring, she will likely be on her side and legs paddling (like bicycle riding) and if you call her name there is no awareness at all. The actual seizure time is generally less than a minute. You need to time it, stand clear and move anything that she could hurt herself on as she seizures. It is only urgent that your pet be seen quickly if there are 3 seizures within a 24 hour period. Some dogs will go in and out of a seizure frequently and they need immediate attention by a veterinarian whether it is day or night. Working dogs who run for long periods of time without eating that seizure need to be given corn syrup on the gums just in case the glucose levels are very low, causing the seizure. Some toxins like coyote baits (strychnine) can cause siezuring and sound sensitivities. Toxin ingestions is often deduced rather than known.

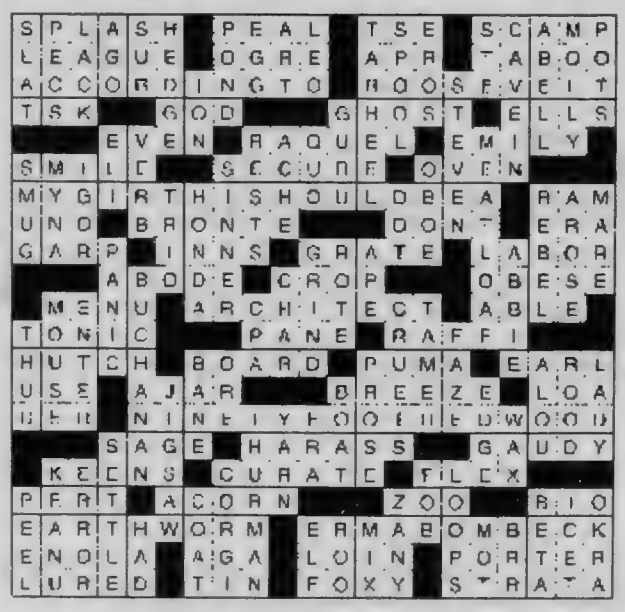
Known toxin ingestion needs to be addressed as soon as possible. If you see it happen, call to find out if the ingested substance is toxic and if vomiting is recommended. Vomiting is NOT always recommended, it depends on the poison. You should have hydrogen peroxide at home to induce vomiting if needed.

Allergic reactions to bug bites can cause a large amount of swelling around the face and trachea, or welts over the body. Benadryl should be given by mouth, but a veterinarian should be contacted prior to doing so to guard against overdose. When there is swelling around the throat, it becomes urgent and the pet will have a difficult time breathing.

Vomiting and diarrhea are not always urgent. If your pet vomits once, you should take him off food for one day (puppies should just skip one meal) and if it is just dietary indiscretion (have eaten garbage or compost), likely that is all you need to do. Daily or continuous vomiting animals need to be worked up to find a cause and treat it. Diarrhea can also be self limiting and going off food might be all that is needed. If the diarrhea is watery, there is a concern of dehydration. If your pet has vomiting and diarrhea, they often will need to have fluid and electrolyte replacement.

Prepare for an emergency in advance and you and your pet will be better off.

First aid kits for pets are available at pet stores everywhere or can be made by owners. There are a few good sources on line of things to put into a pet first aid kit. One fairly comprehensive one is at www.VeterinaryPartner.com/Content, search for first aid kits.■



For week of December 15

Horoscopes
It's in the Stars

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of saying the right thing at the right time. Your friendships are deep and lasting..

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Careful, Lamb. Don't let your generous nature lead to some serious overspending as you contemplate your holiday gift-giving. Your social life kicks off into high gear by week's end.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A positive attitude helps you weather annoying but unavoidable changes in holiday plans. Aspects favor new friendships and reinforcement of existing relationships.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Demands on your energy level could be much higher than usual as you prepare for the upcoming holidays. Be sure to pace yourself. Friends and family will be happy to help.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Don't allow a suddenly icy reaction from a friend or family member to continue without learning what caused it -- and what can be done to restore that once warm and caring relationship.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A relationship seems to be unraveling, mostly from a lack of attention. It might be a good idea to ease up on whatever else you're doing so you can spend more time working to mend it.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) New facts emerge that not only help explain the recent rift with a trusted colleague, but also might provide a chance to wipe the slate clean and make a fresh start in your friendship.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A family member's personal situation is, fortunately, resolved in time for you to get back into your hectic round of holiday preparations. An old friend might bring a new friend into your life.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Pace yourself in meeting holiday pressures and workplace demands to avoid winding up with a frayed temper and a Scorpian stinger that lashes out at puzzled kith, kin and colleagues.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A financial matter requires close attention. Also, news from a trusted source provides the means to help sort out a long-standing state of confusion and put it into perspective.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) This is a good time to reinforce family ties. Make it a priority to assess and resolve all outstanding problems. Start the upcoming holiday season with a full measure of love.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Don't be pressured into a so-called solid-gold investment. Wait until the holiday distractions are over. Then take a harder look at it. You might find that the "gold" is starting to flake off.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A former friend might be trying to heal the breach between you by using a mutual friend as an intermediary. Best advice: Keep an open mind despite any lingering bad feelings.

Shop Locally this Holiday Season... Your Town Will Love You For It!!

County Voice *Easy to Read* Classifieds

Deadline for Classifieds is every Monday at noon

Pets & Agriculture

K9 CLIPPERS & KENNELS 2153 HARBURN ROAD. Professional Grooming Service & friendly, loving home away from home 1-705-457-3614 Natasha Coumbs. tfn

ARE YOU A GOLDEN RETRIEVER BELIEVER? Golden Rescue, The Canadian Golden Retriever Adoption Service Inc. URGENTLY needs foster homes, vet services, "forever" homes, donations, members, fundraisers/ volunteers. Help us care for this magnificent breed. Anything you can do would be greatly appreciated. For information please contact us at 1-866-712-8444 or visit www.golden-rescue.net. tfn

Careers

CAREER IN REAL ESTATE. Contact Kate Archer, Training Director at (705) 457-2220 or careers@ bowesandcocks.com Bowes & Cocks Limited, Brokerage. tfn

Help Wanted

HELP WANTED: MUST LOVE DOGS – Seeking live-in house/dog sitter for occasional stays throughout year. Call 705-488-2868 december c 08

For Rent

FOR RENT – 3 bedroom apartments for rent. Excellent rate. Please call 705-457-9949 december c 08

FOR RENT - New one bedroom apartment available immediately. Heat, hydro, high speed internet and parking included. No smoking, no pets. Near West Guilford. $650/mth. 754-9033 december b 08

FOR RENT - Recession Rates – Room to Let: $380/mo. in Haliburton Village.400 metres from Highland and Maple. Many amenities and extras. Check out our website... www. dragriver.com and check www.bbcanada.com for our reviews. 455-9881. Student or working person. december c 08

FOR RENT- 3 Bedroom house $700.00 per month plus utilities (oil f/a) at Donald. Call 705-457-2560 december c 08

FOR RENT – 1 bedroom apartment available in Haliburton Village. Walking distance to all amenities. Includes use of back yard, parking and storage space. No smoking, no pets. First and last require. $530/month + hydro. Call 457-9108 december c 08

For Rent

FOR RENT – Renovated 2 bedroom apartment available in Haliburton. Walking distance to all amenities. Includes parking, garage space and use of back yard. Heat included. No smoking, no pets. First and last required. $925/month + hydro. Call 457-9108 december c 08

For Sale

FOR SALE – LAWN TRACTOR/SNOW BLOWER – Craftsman 22.0 HP electric start 32" automatic mower. Comes with 40" compact 2-stage snow blower. 3 yrs old, great condition. Asking $2700 o.b.o. (Originally paid $4800) Call 457-3030 december c 08

FORSALE–SNOWBOARD BOOTS AND BINDINGS - Burton Tribute Boots, size 7 Burton Freestyle Bindings Excellent Condition, $300 Value. Phone Stephen at 457-5001 with an offer. december c 08

FOR SALE - Automotive, Snowmobile, ATV, Marine Parts & Accessories. Complete line of Hunting, Archery, Fishing tackle, Paintball, Soft Air Guns & Accessories, and Live Bait & Licensing. The Wild Outdoors formerly CC Enterprises. 163 Highland Street, Haliburton (705) 457- 5334 Open 7 days a week. june 09

FOR SALE – GAME CUBE – Complete with 7 games. $120 Call 286-6790 december b 08

FORSALE–ULTRAMATIC ADJUSTABLE BED – Remote control and massage. $1800 o.b.o. Also available antique office chair (circ. 1920's) $100. Call Gwen or Bert 457-2505 december b 08

FOR SALE – 3 POINT HITCH LUCKNOW SNOW BLOWER – 78" wide with single auger. $400. Call 705-488-2588 december c 08

FOR SALE - NEW COMPLETE SEPTIC SYSTEMS. 30 Years of experience in Minden and Haliburton area. We take care of all paperwork and permits. Fully licenced , health unit inspected. Call for a free estimate, Brent Coltman Trucking and Escavating at 705-286-3952 or 1-800-357-8711 tfn

FOR SALE – 94 DODGE RAM PICKUP – 2500 Diesel, regular cab, $8000 o.b.o. Call (705) 224-3054 or cell: (705) 783-6984 december b 08

For Sale

FOR SALE - 2007 (Black) T660 ARCTIC CAT 2-UP 4 STROKE TOURING SLED. Showroom condition. Fully loaded with electric start, reverse, heated handles. Purchased new in Jan '08 with only 3 hours of trail time used. Included are 2 new helmets (large & X large), 2 pr. leather claw gloves, and cover. Paid $12,000, Reduced to sell at $7,750.00 Call 705-489-3614 december b 08

FOR SALE – 2005 4X4 JIMMY 2RI PKG. – 91,000km, excellent condition. Asking $9999.00 Call (705) 448-2080 january a 08

House for Sale

HOUSE FOR SALE – HALIBURTON AREA 2 bedroom house in Haliburton. Drilled well, walk to stores, overlooks lake. $85,000 o.b.o. Call (705) 488-2382 december d 08

Wanted

ARTICLES WANTED - Old or antique used furniture, one piece or whole estates bought plus clean-up of everything also cars, trucks, boats trailers if the price is right I will make you a deal on anything call Richard in Tory Hill at 448-3920. Clean up of scrap cars or metal as well. tfn

Lost

LOST – 11 year old, male Beagle. If found please call Paul at 286-6492

Services

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Services

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Manager wanted

STAGE MANAGER
Highlands Little Theatre
Is looking for a stage manager for their spring production "Divorce Anyone?" by John Patrick
To be directed by Wayne Cooper.

Highlands Little Theatre is a not for profit theatre group which has been successfully running in the Highlands for over 30 years. No-one gets paid anything, but the rewards are priceless.

The production involves twice weekly rehearsals from February 1st with production dates of April 2 – 4th, 2009. If you want to join a fun and skilled group of players, have time to spare and have the necessary Stage Managing skills then call Curtis at 457-9778 or Caryl at 754-1919

Help Wanted

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Canada's Top 100 Employers 2008 — Featured in MACLEAN'S

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Receptionist Needed

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Please submit your resume , with cover letter, to klavergne@patientnews.com

Shop Local

Razzmatazz for Kids Serves up a Beautiful Bantu Tale

Terrance Gavan
Staff Reporter

Lottridge story and play excites the senses at Northern Lights Pavilion

"Once in the land of the short grass, no rain had fallen and no grass grew."

A premise of drought, set to jungle beat; the savannah of Africa sprawled across a stage in the Haliburton Highlands; an African backdrop of tropical trees set on a dais at the Northern Lights Pavilion; a Bantu folk tale brought to life first in a story by Toronto children's author Celia Lottridge Parker; and again on stage last Sunday through the magic of Razzmatazz.

Four times per year, the Razzmatazz Kids Shows provide live entertainment for youth in the Haliburton Highlands. Last Sunday parents and kids departed to whimsy in a flawlessly staged performance of Lottridge Parker's very popular children's tale.

Lovely papier mache masks depicting the elephant, the gazelle, the giraffe, the monkey, the tortoise, the zebra and the lion sent murmurs of awe through the audience as they took to the stage at the Northern Lights Pavilion. The animals are integral to the story. They meet around a magic tree. A tree that mystically offers fruit in abundance in spite of a deadly drought that threatens the animals' collective existence.

But the fruit is too high even for the giraffe to reach. And the trunk is too slick for the monkey to climb.

The animals put their noggins together and come to the conclusion that the fruit may only be harvested if they ascertain the name of the tree and sing that name while beseeching tree to release its fruit. That requires a journey to Lion, the Queen of the beasts, a journey that inspires no small degree of fear amongst the animals. Gazelle goes and comes back but falls down a rabbit hole and forgets the name of the tree. Elephant follows gazelle, but on the way back falls into the same rabbit hole and forgets the name of the tree.

It falls to tortoise, who, it turns out, had a great, great, great grandmother (she was very old) who once went on a similar journey to lion and came back with the name of the tree.

Lion is intimidating and tired of the recurring visits, but mistakenly utters, once again, the name of the tree; this time to reliable tortoise, who never wavers on his return trip across the broad savannah to the Magic Tree. He is slow, but the kids love the fact that he never wavers from his appointed rounds.

Tortoise doesn't so much fall into the rabbit hole as stumble quietly. He remains unfazed by his brush with the pothole and slowly pulls himself out, all the while repeating the name of the tree.

All around the children are captivated, repeating Tree's name along with Tortoise.

Tortoise is steadfast. "Ungolly," says Tortoise. "The name of the tree is ungolly."

Gazelle, elephant, giraffe, monkey and zebra rejoice around the tree calling the name. "Ungolly, ungolly … the name of the tree is ungolly!"

The animals dance around the tree as the fruit is released from its high perch. Starvation is averted by tortoise, he of that deliberate drawl, and unhurried gait.

The animals continue to dance and sing around the magic tree. Fruit continues to rain freely.

It was, without a doubt, a hit. Evident in the smiles the laughter and the non-stop chatter as those children who had read the book kept up a viable give and take with the animals on stage.

Three actors from a Toronto children's theater group wowed the crowd with lively performances, bringing insight and credibility to their portrayal of the animals. Elephant walking in that slow lugubrious rocking gait, gazelle speeding across the staged savannah with smooth, skated strides and tortoise eliciting delighted giggles with his inexorable and measured drawl and his equally sluggish steps.

The players actively sought participation from old and young members of the audience throughout the performance. And participation they got. The kids were enthralled. Especially when asked early in the performance to shout the fruit down from its too-high perch. The response was deafening and delightful.

And at the end, as the animals danced and sang around the tree and the fruit fell, the kids were right there singing the signature "Ungolly, ungolly … the name of the tree is ungolly."

The fact that the animals were saved by the perceived underdog was obviously not lost on the kids. Of all the characters, Tortoise best exemplified that selfless spirit and a never say die moxie.

Perhaps reminding us all, as that frenetic time of year quickly approaches, that slow and steady, ultimately wins the race.

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Have Your Say... VOX POP

In an effort to continue to promote shopping locally, we asked business owners and employees in Minden and Haliburton, "What can you offer shoppers this Christmas? Why should people come to your store instead of travelling elsewhere?"

Glen Sharpley, Owner, Sharpley Sports, Haliburton – "We've got so many things for both the sports enthusiast and those who aren't as heavy into sports. We have snowboards, skis, clothing and accessories and skates. We cover a lot of bases. We have about 10 popular lines of clothing for women, men and children. You'll find something on sale here every week of the year. We offer a personalized service here and many people shopping at our store find it less stressful than shopping in the city. There's a stigmatization in the county that local stores are more expensive, but that's not the case with us."

Ira Andrews, Owner, A Little Bit of Everything, Minden – "We're like a dollar store. We have nice toys that go from a dollar and up, great Christmas decorations and stocking stuffers for the holiday season. We have just about everything for your gift wrapping needs including gift bags, wrapping paper and scotch tape. Here you'll find stuff for those who are hard to buy for. All our prices are inexpensive and we have a great selection with friendly customer service."

Shadow, Store Mascot, Paulmac's Pet Food, Minden – "We have dog stockings, a variety of dog and cat treats, natural treats and Christmas goodies. We also have small animals, birds, fish and cats up for adoption. There are some winter coats for dogs that are on for $9.99. At Paulmac's we're fair, honest and if we don't have something you want we'll do our best to try and get it."

Susan Quinto, owner of Country Magic in Minden – "We have a little bit of everything. We have children's wear, adult wear, giftware, jewellery and accessories. This is a one-stop shop. We also have weekly specials leading up to Christmas including 25 per cent off on all coats, boots and outerwear this week and 25 per cent off on sweaters and children's wear next week. Come in and check out our name brand merchandise at discounted prices. We have something for all ages."

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By Steve Newman

Zimbabwe Health Crisis

An outbreak of cholera has killed several hundred Zimbabweans and infected more than 10,000 others across a country now without an effective economic or health care system. One politician in South Africa suggested that Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe be removed from office by force due to policies that have led to millions in his country being at risk of contracting the potentially deadly disease. Cholera is curable with re-hydration therapy, but one in every 10 infected Zimbabweans has not survived since the outbreak began in August. The spiraling collapse of the country's economy has left most doctors, nurses and other health personnel unpaid. The Red Cross is among several agencies that have begun delivering food to the health professionals, as well as distributing latrines, medicines and hygiene kits to mitigate the cholera crisis. Some patients were being treated outside beneath trees because all available hospital wards were full. In the capital of Harare, the public water supply was shut down after purification supplies ran out, forcing residents to drink contaminated water.

Caribbean Blast

Montserrat's Soufriere Hills volcano exploded with a blast of super-heated debris that ignited fires in the Caribbean Island's long-abandoned capital of Plymouth. The director of the island's volcano observatory, Roderick Stewart, said no one was injured when the mountain shot debris more than a mile into the air and down its western flank. The observatory's Web site said vacant buildings set on fire in Plymouth could be seen burning for several hours after the blast.

Climate Challenges

Representatives gathering in Poland for the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) were told by three major international relief organizations that climate change is overwhelming their capacity to cope with people made sick or homeless by natural disasters. The agencies cautioned that devastating droughts and floods brought on by global warming are already causing a huge leap in the number of people who need natural disaster relief. "Over the past 20 years, the number of reported disasters has doubled from roughly 200 (per year) to 400," said Kasidis Rochanakorn, head of the U.N. Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Speaking on the sidelines of the UNFCCC, scientists from the World Wildlife Fund said climate change and its effects are occurring at a faster rate than climate models had earlier predicted.

Indian Cyclone Disaster

Slowly moving Cyclone Nisha left at least 86 people dead after drenching southern India and parts of Sri Lanka with up to 27 inches of rainfall during a four-day period. Many of the fatalities occurred in India's Tamil Nadu state, where the center of the storm left a trail of damage and millions of acres of crops submerged. The massive disaster was overshadowed by the concurrent terrorist attacks on Mumbai.

Earthquakes

A sharp quake centered just off Taiwan's east coast caused buildings in the capital of Taipei to shake.

• Earth movements were also felt in northern New Zealand, southern Sumatra, northeastern Japan and around Oklahoma City.

Record Brazilian Floods

Weekend downpours in southern Brazil that brought as much rain on Nov. 22-23 as normally falls over several months unleashed catastrophic flooding that has taken two weeks to subside. "This is the worst environmental calamity we have ever faced," said Brazilian President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva as he flew over the worst affected state of Santa Catarina. Nearly 100,000 people were driven from their homes by floods that stretched from Rio de Janeiro state to near the border with Uruguay. At least 117 people are confirmed to have died in the floods and mudslides. The destruction of bridges, roads and buildings in the disaster has crippled an already faltering economy in the region.

A Lethal Welcome

An Icelandic commission has recommended that any polar bears that swim to the island nation from Greenland should be shot because it's too expensive to ship the dangerous animals back home or to a zoo. The commission was appointed last summer after two of the bears were shot dead. They had apparently managed to swim up to 200 miles after ice floes, which carried them part of the way from Greenland, melted beneath their feet. The killings sparked outrage from conservation groups that blamed authorities for not keeping the bears isolated until they could be safely relocated. Polar bear sightings had been rare in Iceland until this past June. The arrival of two bears within a two-week period could lend credence to warnings that global warming is melting the bears' habitats.

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3 BR, 2 bath chalet on over 3 acres of forested property with private pond. Open concept with large kitchen, private master floor with ensuite

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Great 3 BR cottage with pine floors throughout, cathedral ceiling, woodstove on a beautiful well treed private property. West exp. on a quiet no motor lake.

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3 BR bungalow with 8 x 16 bunkie, overlooking 15 acre pond very private 2.5 acre lot just min to Haliburton Village.

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Cute 2 bedroom home near Carnarvon with many recent upgrades. Close to snowmobile trail and public access to Kushog Lake

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5 BR, 5 bath 4000 sq.ft. cedar home. Former B&B, Triple garage. Studio & wkshp. Docking on Kashag. chain. Open concept, hardwood flrs. stone FP.

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Blairhampton Rd. two building lots 1.10 acre and 1.18 acre centrally located between Minden and Haliburton. Price is per lot.

Kristin Withey 286-2138

Kashagawigamog Access $219,900

Cute 2 BR home + 3 BR guest bunkie with dock on Lk Kashagawigamog, just mins from Haliburton on quiet crescent off Cty Rd 21.

Tom Wilkinson 286-2138

Kashagawigamog $550,000

Resort or Family Compound located on Haliburton's most popular 5 lake chain. Sunset views, 5 cabins plus residence, level lot, easy year round access

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Large Building Lot $24,900

5 Acre level lot with hardwood bush and old stone fences. Close to boat launch and snowmobile trails. Seasonal Mun. Road.

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Lochlin Area Home $250,000

Air conditioned 3 BR with main floor master, 2 baths, rec room on 3+ acre lot. Flat lot, beautifully treed, attached garage, small pond. 10 min to town.

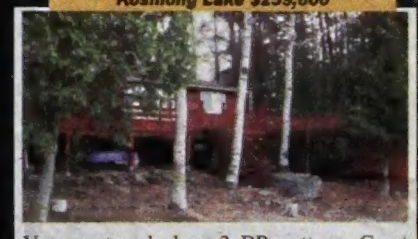
Dagmar Boettcher- 286-2138

Great rental potential! $73,900

2 BR with large 760 ft shop/studio. Close to public access to Hall Lake. New furnace, roof & comes with all appliances! Open to all offers!

Tom Ecclestone 286-2138

Koshlong Lake $259,800



Very neat and clean 3 BR cottage. Great sand/rock shorline. Boathouse at waters edge with a large sitting deck above it to enjoy the evening sunsets.

Wilf VanLieshout - 457-2128

Charming 3 Bedroom $139,000

Cozy home with 1 1/2 bath is set on a very private 9.81 acre lot, a portion is fenced to house animals, 30x30 insulated, heated shop is drywalled, also features a bunkie

Greg Stamp 457-2128

Soyers Lake – 569,000

Charming cottage with 3 BR, 2 baths, screened in room, full basement, large deck, 2 storey dbl garage & easy yr rnd access. Located on 5 lake chain.

Derrell and Kim Stamp 457-2128

Minden Lake $364,900

3 BR home/cottage with 167' of waterfront on picturesque Minden Lake. Quiet neighbourhood, great swimming, fishing & near White Water Reserve.

Paul Szpik – 457-2128

2-Lake Chain $339,900

Great 4-season cottage on Miskwabi Lake. Full-length lake view, 103' clean shoreline with deep water, w/o bsmt, furnace, winter water system. Yr. rnd mun. road

Susanne James & Andy Mosher 457-2128

Kennisis View & Sunsets $499,000

5 BR multi-unit property. Enjoy the lake view & sunsets. Pine throughout, skylights, 2 baths & heated garage/workshop.

Mark Dennys 457-2128

Little Boshkung $310,000

"Privacy+++ fabulous sunset view, sleeps 8 and is the sweetest cottage in Haliburton with 300 feet of shoreline"

Lee Gauthier 489-9968

Country Privacy – In Town $549,000

Energy efficient home features; open concept, stone FP, beautiful landscaping, massive covered wrap-around deck, & 3300+ sq ft of living elegance.

Drew Bishop - 457-2128

Minden Bungalow $274,900

A whole new look in this redesigned 3 BR home with his/her garage, ensuite bath, newer kitchen, circular drive on a cul de sac, walking distance to town.

Janice Brookes 457-2128

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